

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 58

MONDAY MARCH 24, 2014

www.saipantribune.com

75¢

GOT A **NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397
235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

281 DAYS

**BEFORE THE CW
PROGRAM EXPIRES
ON DEC. 31, 2014**

POLL RESULTS

Do you have a Facebook account?



Sunday, March 23, 2014

INSIDE

ASIA



Solving the mystery of the missing Malaysian plane is proving to be frustrating.

► **PAGE 16**

WORLD



Pro-Russian forces storm and seize control of a Ukraine air force base.

► **PAGE 17**

Mendiola is let go as CPA Tinian ports manager. PAGE 5
Freedom Air operation in the CNMI is now 'inactive' PAGE 6

Saipan casino bill now law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos announced at yesterday's Republican Party kickoff rally that he signed Friday afternoon the bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan and assured retirees that their 25 percent pension cut will be restored "within 90 days," drawing cheers and

applause from the crowd of hundreds. A bill amending the new law will be introduced as early as this week to address concerns about some problematic sections of the new statute.

"Public Law 18-38," the governor repeatedly said in his remarks at the GOP kickoff rally, with his running mate Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) also on stage, at the Susupe basketball courts yesterday afternoon.

But the 25 percent pension cut's restoration, along with payments of other Re-

See CASINO on Page 4

» **Inos: 25 pct. pension cut restored 'within 90 days'**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, prepare to address the crowd at yesterday's Republican Party kickoff rally in Susupe. The governor announced yesterday that he signed late Friday afternoon a bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan to help restore retirees' 25 percent pension cut, pay the interest on some withdrawn retirement contributions, and lower utility rates, among other things.

More details out on Pagan, Tinian plans

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Visiting Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig B. Whelden divulged Friday more details and changes in the military's proposed live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan, including a possible addition of another alternative to Pagan after hearing resi-



Whelden

dents' concerns in the past several months, even as Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately said he's "pleased" with the regular consultations that now talk about "specific issues" rather than "generalities."

There would be 400 to 500 U.S. Marines on Tinian at any given time during training but the facilities that will be built can accommodate up to

1,500 Marines. The facilities could be later expanded for up to 3,000 Marines.

On Pagan, there would be some 2,400 U.S. Marines at any given time also during training, but that is not every week either.

Whelden said the Marines originally intended for the training on Tinian and Pagan to occur 45 weeks a year but the Record of Decision may reduce the training frequency to only "16 to

See PAGAN on Page 4

\$130M resort on Tinian OK'd

» **Titanic-themed hotel to start construction in December**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A planned multimillion-dollar attraction on Tinian could put the Commonwealth on the world map as the first to build a *Titanic*-themed hotel and resort.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority approved on Friday the proposed new facility that will be built on a 40,000-square-meter CPA property on the Tinian harbor. The hotel and resort will have 300 rooms and state-of-the-art amenities including a museum, restaurants, a spa and fitness center, shopping

arcades, and a wedding chapel.

According to Phillip Mendiola-Long, executive director of Bridge Investment Group LLC, the Tinian Ocean View Resort will be Asia's first *Titanic*-themed hotel and resort. Actual construction is eyed in December this year.

See RESORT on Page 4



FREE
i296
PUSH-TO-TALK
RUGGED CANDY
BAR DESIGN
COLOR DISPLAY
BLUETOOTH
SPEAKERPHONE

CAP PLAN \$25/month
1000 Local Call Minutes • Unlimited Push-To-Talk
Unlimited Local SMS

*Local Calls and SMS include Guam and the CNMI • See Print Ad for details. Some conditions apply.



CONNECT
Push-To-Talk That Works!
f /connectguam
iconnectsaipan.com
888-8888

Local

Covenant negotiator keynotes naturalization ceremony

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vicente N. Santos, the former vice chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission that negotiated the Covenant with the U.S. government, was the keynote speaker at Friday's naturalization ceremony in federal court.

Santos congratulated the 13 who became the newest citizens of the U.S. political family.

"I know the difficult road you have taken to obtain citizenship by naturalization. The years of preparation and waiting have finally concluded today," said Santos at the ceremony that also honored the 38th year of the signing of the Covenant, the document that made the Northern Marianas a part of the U.S. and made its residents U.S. citizens.

Present at the ceremony were CNMI Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and many other lawmakers and government leaders.

Santos shared that four years after the complete devastation of Saipan in World War II, it became apparent that the Northern Marianas people desired to become part of the American political family.

Santos said that subsequent to 1948, a move to request the administering authority to unite Guam and Saipan received a resounding approval from the people.

A special election was then held to ask the CNMI's people if they want to become part of Guam and become U.S. citizens. Majority of the CNMI



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The 13 new U.S. citizens have their picture taken on Friday with, seated from left to right, Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, former Marianas Political Status Commission vice chair Vicente N. Santos, and Immigration Services officer Nicolas Bartell.

people voted to reunite with Guam but Guam, however, had a very low turnout.

"That [unification vote] failed," said Santos.

Their next option then was "to shift gears on full speed" with the administering authority.

At this time, he said, the Micronesian Status Commission was with Ambassador F. Haydn Williams in Palau to discuss, among other things, the request of the Marianas for a separate status negotiation with the U.S. He said Williams responded affirmatively to enter negotiations with the representatives of the Northern Marianas in April 1972.

Santos said the people of the Northern Marianas became U.S. citizens by virtue of the Covenant in political union with the U.S.A.

"We went to bed on the evening of Nov. 2nd, 1986, and

when we awoke the morning of Nov. 3, 1986, we became U.S. citizens," he said.

Santos told the 13 newest U.S. citizens that their becoming a U.S. citizen coincides with a very unique celebration, the Covenant, a self-governing Commonwealth in political union with the U.S.

Santos said the word Covenant translates the idea of a serious and solemn agreement between two parties.

Santos cited the story of Noah and the Ark that ends with God's agreement that he will never again destroy the Earth by water. He said the sign of that Covenant is the rainbow.

"The Covenant expects our government and the people to respond to its provision with faith and obedience. This is our part of the agreement, or the Covenant," he pointed out. "Without our free response and adherence to it, the Covenant

doesn't work."

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona administered the oath to the 13 new U.S. citizens.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde presented to the court the 13 petitioners, who are from the Philippines, Pohnpei, Mongolia, and Thailand.

Werner Martin told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the ceremony that he is glad and thankful that he is now a U.S. citizen. Martin first came to Saipan in 1991 and worked at DFS as a stocker. He currently works as one of the crew of a sunset cruise firm. Martin served as a specialist with the U.S. Army from 2004 to 2007 and had a tour of duty in Iraq.

Cecilia Ho Lifofoi, 56, originally from the Philippines, said she is very happy as she is now a citizen of a great nation.

Lifofoi said she told her hus-

band the night before that she's very lonely over the passing of her mother on March 11. She said her husband, former lawmaker and now Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose Lifofoi, told her that she will be very happy on Friday because of her citizenship.

Cecilia Lifofoi said she cried when she received her certificate of citizenship. She said off-island travel would now be easier as she does not need to undergo fingerprinting, among other procedures.

Munkhchimeg Tsegmed Murodock, 37, of Mongolia, said she's

very happy and excited that she's now a U.S. citizen. She first arrived on Saipan in 2005 and married a retired U.S. government employee.

The 10 other new citizens are Hannah Jacinto Schorr (wife of former U.S. Office of Insular Affairs field representative to the CNMI Jeff Schorr), Ros-sana Ronquillo Aquino, Lynn Yorong Atalig, Leonor Fule Ayuyu, Sirilak Blake, Luisito Mercado Fajardo, Desiree Jane Caroline Austria Guerzon, Maria Alma Bungay Kapileo, Niyannina Reyes Ross, and Hector Dela Cruz Sablan.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy 1st birthday to our greatest blessing, Christopher Wallace Songsong Seidler! The moment you came into our lives you have filled our hearts with love and happiness. We love you so much, son, and we couldn't wait to celebrate this whole day with you! Wishing you good health, love, and a lifetime of birthdays to come! Love always, Daddy and Mommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 14th birthday to Athena Jaycee aka AJ! May God bless you always with many more birthdays to come. We love you.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Krista C. Falig! May you have many more birthdays to come and may our Lord continue to bless you and your family. We love you.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Janece Mae C. Salas! We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Julia, and John.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Share Your Island Hospitality!
Post a Postcard for Your Chance to Win!

Tourism is everybody's business! Show us your hospitality toward our island visitors

for your chance to win a staycation in Saipan.

Contest Rules

1. The contest is open to all residents of the Northern Mariana Islands.
2. Contest period is from March 6, 2014, to March 25, 2014.
3. Entries must be posted in the Postcard section of the Marianas Visitors Authority website at www.mymarianas.com by March 25, 2014. Entries must include entrant's name, a photo and a description of the entrant showing hospitality to a visitor(s).
4. One or more winners will be randomly selected and announced in March 2014. Winner(s) will be awarded a staycation package in the Northern



their prize. Prizes must be claimed by May 31, 2014, or will be forfeited.

7. The MVA shall not be liable for gift certificates that expire prior to being claimed by winner(s).



AS JURORS GO INTO 3RD DAY OF DELIBERATIONS:

What Kim must prove in her RICO claims

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The nine jurors failed to reach a verdict on Friday, the second day of their deliberations in the ongoing jury trial in federal court of businesswoman Jung Ja Kim's racketeering lawsuit against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, his wife Frances, his law firm, and their Karissa LLC company.

The jurors deliberated the whole day of Friday. Shortly before 5pm, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona excused them and ordered them to resume today, Monday.

Kim asserts eight claims against the Quichocho and co-defendants: three counts of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, one count of legal malpractice: professional negligence, one count of legal malpractice: breach of fiduciary duty, one count of breach of lease, one count of conversion, and one count of fraud.

The Quichocho, the law office, and Tan Dingo LLC, are also suing Kim for conversion, interference with marital re-

lationship, unjust enrichment, *quantum meruit*, and fraud.

The racketeering or RICO claims are said to be the most complicated among the 13 claims and counterclaims. So how will the jurors decide on such claims?

According to Manglona's jury instructions, in order for Kim's first RICO claim to succeed, she must prove each of the following elements by a preponderance of evidence: That the Quichocho engaged in a pattern of racketeering activity; through the pattern of racketeering activity, the couple acquired or maintained, directly or indirectly, an interest in or control of an enterprise; and the enterprise engaged in, or had some effect on, interstate or foreign commerce.

The instructions defined racketeering activity as an act that violates wire fraud and money laundering laws.

To succeed in Kim's second RICO claim, she must prove each of the five facts by a preponderance of evidence: 1. The existence of an enterprise; 2. The enterprise engaged in, or had some effect on, inter-

state or foreign commerce; 3. The Quichocho were employed by or associated with the alleged enterprise; 4. The Quichocho participated, ei-

ther directly or indirectly, in the conduct of the affairs of the enterprise; 5. The Quichocho participated through a pattern

of racketeering activity.

To succeed in Kim's third RICO claim, the jurors must decide if Kim has proved by a pre-

ponderance of evidence whether two or more of the defendants engaged in a conspiracy to violate RICO.

AYURVEDIC
Thai Massage
April Thai New Year
\$2500 1 hour of full body massage
Call for appointment
We extend discount to T.W.I.C., Navy & Merchant Marines card holder.
\$3500 1.5 hours **\$4500** 2 hours
We have Certified Therapeutic Thai Massage over 10 years experience.
Open Daily from 11am to 11pm
Tel: 233-2249
2nd Floor, Winchell's Bldg., Garapan

Still Serving You!

Dr. David Khorram comes from Guam to Saipan every 2 weeks and continues to work with Dr. Robertson to provide excellent optical, medical, surgical, and laser eye care to the people of the CNMI.

- Listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists"
- The CNMI's only Ophthalmologist (Board Certified - Score: Top 1% nationally)
- Researcher, Diabetic Retinopathy Research Network
- Published articles in international medical journals

Open six days a week, Mon - Sat, 8 am - 5 pm.

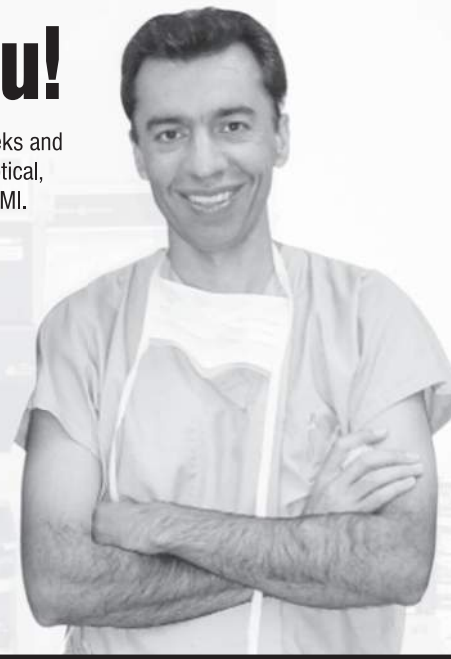
We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!



Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090

Walk-in's welcome
Beach Road Garapan.



Your Baby at 4 Months



Child's Name

Child's Age

Today's Date

How your child plays, learns, speaks, and acts offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

Check the milestones your child has reached by the end of 4 months. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What Most Babies Do at this Age:

Social/Emotional

- Smiles spontaneously, especially at people
- Likes to play with people and might cry when playing stops
- Copies some movements and facial expressions, like smiling or frowning

Language/Communication

- Begins to babble
- Babbles with expression and copies sounds he hears
- Cries in different ways to show hunger, pain, or being tired

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- Lets you know if she is happy or sad
- Responds to affection
- Reaches for toy with one hand
- Uses hands and eyes together, such as seeing a toy and reaching for it
- Follows moving things with eyes from side to side
- Watches faces closely
- Recognizes familiar people and things at a distance

Movement/Physical Development

- Holds head steady, unsupported
- Pushes down on legs when feet are on a hard surface
- May be able to roll over from tummy to back
- Can hold a toy and shake it and swing at dangling toys
- Brings hands to mouth
- When lying on stomach, pushes up to elbows

Act Early by Talking to Your Child's Doctor if Your Child:

- Doesn't watch things as they move
- Doesn't smile at people
- Can't hold head steady
- Doesn't coo or make sounds
- Doesn't bring things to mouth
- Doesn't push down with legs when feet are placed on a hard surface
- Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age, and talk with someone in your community who is familiar with services for young children in your area, such as your state's public early intervention program. For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/concerned or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. This milestone checklist is not a substitute for a standardized, validated developmental screening tool.

Palacios pleads guilty to 'ice' distribution charge

Vicente Sablan Palacios, a 38-year-old man who was one of seven persons arrested last month by joint federal and local law enforcement teams for allegedly engaging in distribution of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan has pleaded guilty.

At a change of plea hearing Friday afternoon in federal court, Palacios pleaded guilty to the indictment charging him with one count of distribution of methamphetamine.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$1 million fine, and five years of supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted the plea agreement

and Palacios' guilty plea.

He will be sentenced on Aug. 8, 2014.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy stated that a confidential source managed to buy \$400 worth of "ice" from Palacios on Oct. 11, 2012.

Mark Hanson served as court-appointed counsel for Palacios.

The anti-drug operation that netted Palacios and six other persons, including the alleged top two leaders of a group of "ice" suppliers on Saipan, was conducted by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Public Safety, and the CNMI Customs and Border Protection. (Ferdie de la Torre)

'Rocket launcher' stolen from base in Korea found in Guam

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Guam police recovered what court documents describe as a stolen "rocket launcher" during a raid on a Dededo home Friday.

The weapon was recovered during the execution of a warrant at a home on Swamp Road. Four men were taken into custody. Three were booked and confined by Guam police; the status of the fourth suspect is not yet clear.

On Saturday, two of the four, 49-year-old Donald C. Aldan and 34-year-old Ivan Leebrick Sablan Cabrera, were formally charged in Superior Court. Al-

dan and Cabrera were charged with "theft by receiving" and "possession of a Schedule II controlled substance."

According to the Magistrate report, the "rocket launcher" was later determined to be a "trainer handling guided missile launcher" belonging to the U.S. government and it was "capable of firing a projectile that could possibly be operational." The report says that the device "is capable of launching a projectile from the tube...the internal operation of the weapon has a functioning rocket motor capable of launching the projectile either 500 feet or beyond."

HOW IS YOUR BABY GROWING?

If you have any concerns about your child's development, contact the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) at 664-4830

Printing funded by the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant.



www.cdc.gov/actearly | 1-800-CDC-INFO

Learn the Signs. Act Early.



PAGAN

From Page 1

20 weeks” a year through a “phased approach.”

“It’s because the day after we do the Record of Decision, we’re not going to be able to turn the key and put 45 [weeks]. We recognize that. Facilities won’t be built yet. They have to be contracted out,” Whelden told reporters, adding that the Marines may not even be in the Marianas from Okinawa because the scheduled move has been changed from 2020 to about 2024.

That “16 to 20 weeks” training frequency would last for years.

Whelden said the shelf life for a Record of Decision is some five years, so the military has to reexamine whether the training weeks should be changed to “40 to 45 weeks” a year.

The largest artillery that could be used on Tinian is 155 millimeters, and MARFORPAC has been consistent with this since last year.

MARFORPAC is the executive agency charged with preparing the environmental impact statement and overseas impact statement on the pro-

posed improvement of existing and development of new live-fire military training areas on Tinian and Pagan.

‘Non-traditional approach’

Whelden, a retired major general in the U.S. Army, pointed out to reporters that MARFORPAC is taking a “non-traditional” approach when it comes to the Pagan and Tinian plans.

Among other things, the agency is regularly engaging with the CNMI through ad-hoc committee meetings, even though the typical process does not require them to do so.

“But we’re doing them because we know that there are issues that are very important to the people of the CNMI and we want to be able to incorporate those issues as we shape the alternatives and we’re doing that,” Whelden said in an interview after meeting with the governor on Capital Hill Friday morning.

Inos, in a separate interview, said the meetings and talks with MARFORPAC at the ad-hoc committee levels deal with “specific issues” rather than generalities.

“We’re actually really talking about issues now, individual issues. Tinian, for example—

what are the various issues affecting Tinian, and the divert airfield specific issues. Pagan came up but it’s still early in the discussion,” he said.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said the ad-hoc committee meetings tackled Tinian seaport and airport concerns on Wednesday, and cattle ranching on Thursday, among other things.

Record of Decision: February 2015

Whelden said the release of the Record of Decision has been moved to February 2015, two months after its original release date, for a couple of reasons.

“We’re doing that to make sure that it won’t lay on top of a brand new administration either [on] Tinian or here, if that in fact happens. [It] gives them little of a breathing time but also not to put the comment period right over the top of the holiday—Christmas, New Year’s,” he said.

Whelden said they’re in the analysis phase right now—“between the scoping and the draft preferred alternative announcement.”

Pagan modification

Whelden confirmed likely mod-

ifications on the Pagan plans, specifically the possibility of another proposed alternative.

Both the governor and Whelden recognized that Pagan remains an “emotional” and “touchy” issue. Some two-thirds of Tinian lands are under lease to the U.S. Department of Defense.

“We know that Pagan is a very emotional touchstone for the people of the CNMI. I get it so it begs the question, ‘what are the interests of the people of the CNMI, the Northern Islanders with Pagan?’” he said.

Northern Island residents want to move back to Pagan decades after a major volcanic eruption on the island forced them to relocate to Saipan and other islands.

Whelden said initially, they rolled out the idea of using the whole island of Pagan for military training and other activities, but they have since “backed off” of that after hearing peoples’ interest in moving back to the island. He said they have been looking for ways to co-exist.

“If people are interested in returning to the island of Pagan, how can we coexist? How can...all people get back to Pagan through improvements on the airfields potentially,

improvements on the port potentially, not putting the firing range in the east most of the island, which I recall the diagram has got two impact areas—one in the volcano area, another one in the middle. So we’ll probably going to roll out another alternative which removes that one in the middle so that all live fire would only occur north of the airfield,” he said.

He added that this retains the bottom portion of Pagan from the eastmost down to the south “in its pristine natural environment which is important to us.”

Whelden added that the things they have heard so far—including residents’ interest in fisheries, cold storage of fish, eco-tourism—“are all things that could be compatible use with military use.”

He said for eco-tourism alone, something that the military could probably help with is “by improving the airfield, by improving the port, so people could have access to the island.”

Environmental concerns

William “Bill” Torres, a consultant for the Northern Islands’ Mayor’s Office, spoke at length on Friday with reporters about what they believe is the environmental destruction of Pagan

once the military starts using it for live-fire training.

Whelden said he would like to ask, “What do they mean by destroy the environment? Again, the only place military ordnance—which is bombs or artillery rounds or bullets—would land is in the volcanic area, not where you find any of the natural green area because the removal of that range in the south in that one alternative would keep that in its pristine environment.”

He said the U.S. military is a “very good steward of the environment,” referring to Army and Marine Corps posts and bases around the country” wherein endangered species live on and thrive in training ranges.

“And we would do the same thing with Pagan. So it’s frustrating for me to hear, people characterize our use of Pagan as destroying the island and using the analogy of FDM because nothing could be farther from the truth. We want Pagan to be in its natural pristine state and we would limit our delivery of any kinds of bullets, bombs or artillery to just that area in the north, which is all volcanic rock right now,” Whelden said.

RESORT

From Page 1

He said the Tinian Ocean View Resort will be built on land but would look like it is sitting in water. The proposed 300 hotel rooms will include a presidential suite, 15 suites, and 58 executive suites. The facility will also include a casino and banquet room, among other amenities.

The CPA board finally approved the company’s con-

ditional lease after months of negotiations. As part of the conditional agreement, Bridge Investment Group agreed to build for CPA two to three new buildings to replace ones that will be affected by the hotel project and will need to be relocated outside the leased property.

Why Titanic?

Mendiola-Long, who appeared in Friday’s meeting, said that based on their research, there is much that fascinates people

about *Titanic*. He said that of over \$2.2 billion in global revenue the *Titanic* movie earned, majority or 70 percent came from outside the U.S.

In China, that movie is the No. 1 top grossing film. In the 2012 re-release of the *Titanic* movie in 3D, it earned \$70 million in its opening weekend in China, the highest ever for any film. BIG’s research also show that an estimated 70 percent of the East Coast of China has viewed the film while the film soundtrack, *My Heart*

Will Go On, is the No. 1 English song sang in karaoke bars.

It was also bared that a survey among 20-45 year olds in China showed that the *Titanic* is one of the top 3 favorite films.

“The history of *Titanic* in China has no relation to the real life 1912 disaster. The *Titanic* story has morphed into a Chinese fairytale story similar to Cinderella,” bared the company.

According to Mendiola-Long, BIG aims to bring tour-

ists from Northern China and is currently working with the Federal Aviation Administration for its planned charter flights from the destination.

CPA was informed Friday that BIG has already invested over \$6 million in the planning, acquisition, and development of 85,000 square meters of property on Tinian. This includes the complete construction of workforce housing for the estimated 1,000 workers necessary to build the Tinian Ocean View Resort.

BIG is also a conditional gaming license holder with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, completing all financial and personal suitability investigations in 2006.

For the Tinian Ocean View Resort project, the company is willing to pay advance base rental fee for a 40-year lease term upon signing of the agreement with CPA. It will also pay for all required studies such as structural, archeological, environmental, underwater survey, and others.

CASINO

From Page 1

tirement Fund obligations such as payment of withheld interest of withdrawn contributions, will still depend on whether or not a casino investor pays a \$1 million nonrefundable application, and makes \$30 million in partial exclusive casino license fee payment soon. The amendment bill changes some of the major timelines.

Inos said in a brief interview later yesterday that he signed the casino bill late Friday afternoon.

That was before heading out to his fundraiser and after his closed-door meeting with the Senate president and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan). The speaker said yesterday he wasn’t aware that the bill was signed after their meeting on Friday.

As of yesterday afternoon, the administration has yet to transmit to the Legislature a copy of the new law, which reportedly has several pages of a cover letter that spells out the governor’s concerns about the casino legislation and why it needs to be

amended.

“Basically we want to make sure that rebate is clearly restored. There’s some ambiguity in there [even with technical correction]. This one, we want to spell it out,” Inos said, adding that restoring the pension cut is “among many other things” for signing the casino legislation.

The governor, in his remarks in vernacular, also mentioned his desire to use portions of funds generated from the casino industry to help subsidize the so-called LEAC rate for residential customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. This will help lower CUC utility rates.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), main author of the casino bill, said yesterday he’s grateful for his colleagues’ support in approving the revenue-generating bill and for the governor for signing it, with assurance from lawmakers that they will amend it to address the concerns from the general public and government officials.

“Again I am respectfully requesting my colleagues in the Legislature to support the amendment bill [that] I will be introducing this week, and this

amendment bill is a product of working together among the House, Senate, and the administration and upon listening to the public’s concerns,” Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Demapan noted that the casino is just one aspect of the whole legislation, saying that the investor would still be required to invest a minimum of \$2 billion on 2,000 hotel rooms and related facilities.

“I’m sure that if it’s well regulated, the casino industry will help the economy in a major way for generations to come. I hope investors will step up to the plate and start applying for an exclusive license fee,” he said in a phone interview.

The House and Senate passed the controversial casino gaming bill a day apart, about a month after Demapan prefiled it. The bill was not referred to a committee or went through public hearings. But Demapan said similar bills, including the last one shelved by the Senate late last year, underwent committee reviews and public hearings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

It was the first time in at least four years that the Senate passed

a casino bill from the House. Casino gaming used to be legal only on Rota and Tinian, home to the only operating casino in the CNMI—Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

GOP kickoff rally

The Republican Party’s kickoff rally began with a motorcade yesterday morning, followed by a roadside waving and then the program proper.

At almost 1pm, GOP officers, precinct chairpersons, and the endorsed candidates started coming up to the stage for presentation to the public.

The candidates are led by Inos and Torres as the GOP’s official candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, in the November general elections. They were followed by candidates for Precincts 1 to 5 on Saipan, and then the Rota candidates before calling the Saipan senatorial and mayoral candidates.

The Tinian candidates will be announced at a later date, but Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, who is running for Tinian mayor, along with Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider who

is running again for a Tinian senatorial seat, and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) were also present at the kickoff rally.

“This is a pretty good turnout,” former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Roman Tudela said of the crowd.

The governor himself said he’s “very pleased” with the turnout.

“I’m really happy with the turnout as you can see, people are still excited about what’s going on. A lot of these folks are volunteers and they showed up because they want to be a part of the solution. I’m also very pleased with the candidates working hard, with their families. So I feel good. I feel better than before,” Inos said.

GOP president James A. Ada said he’s overwhelmed by people’s participation in the kickoff rally.

On stage, after the governor’s speech, Torres also briefly addressed the crowd.

“We’re going to do the right thing,” he said. He responded “I love you guys and I love IT,” after a member of the crowd said “I love you.”

The House floor leader,

meanwhile, said that “we’ve started the engine and we’ll start shifting gears.”

“This is a start and we’ll get to the finish line,” he added.

GOP officers also called on stage representatives of different sectors, including from the Carolinian community, Filipino community, Palauan community, and women representatives.

But one of the most commanding speeches was from Matthew Deleon Guerrero, representing the youth sector.

He said the youths are coming out to support the Inos-Torres ticket and the rest of the GOP slate because they are “the party of solutions.”

“We’re supporting them in this election because they want more solutions and less promises. We’re supporting them in this election because we want leadership and not avoidance. We’re supporting them in this election because we deserve solutions-driven leadership on the CNMI,” he said, and the crowd applauded.

In closing, he said the youths “aren’t just the future leaders of the CNMI; they’re the leaders today.”

Mendiola is let go as CPA Tinian ports manager

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board decided Friday to announce the position of Tinian ports manager, which is currently held by Joseph T. Mendiola.

Without further discussion and deliberation on the floor during Friday's board meeting, Mendiola was issued a 45-day notice to vacate the ports manager position.

Mendiola was hired by the board in October 2010 to replace former manager Ike Perez, whose contract was also terminated.

Mendiola's contract has been on the board's table since early this year but a decision on the matter was delayed. In contrast, the contracts of both Saipan airport manager Ed Mendiola and Rota airport manager Martin Mendiola have already been renewed.

Mendiola's last contract stipulated a \$50,000 annual salary.

When asked for comments, Mendiola admitted being surprised by the board's decision. However, he said he fully respects and understands the board action.

"I was surprised because all

along I thought I was renewed. But I do respect and understand the board's decision. I'd like to thank them for the opportunity they have given me to work with CPA for three years," he said.

Mendiola is expected to get the 45-day notice this week and, according to board members, he can still apply for the position once it is formally announced.

When asked if he will re-apply for the position, Mendiola declined to comment but expressed a willingness to serve the agency again if the board wishes it in the future.

Prior to Friday's decision, the board deferred taking action on Mendiola's contract pending a meeting reportedly requested by Gov. Eloy S. Inos. This was specifically mentioned in a previous meeting by board member Benigno Sablan.

Mendiola believes that because it's an election year, the decision on his contract may have some "political pressure." "But I really do understand the board," he added.

Mendiola is reported to be interested in the mayoralty position on Tinian. He told

Saipan Tribune he is "seriously considering" to run in the mid-term election. Mendiola is a member of the Republican Party.

For the three years he served as the Tinian ports manager, Mendiola has been instrumental in the military buildup project being coordinated on Tinian where trainings are being conducted.

"I hope what I have done is satisfactory to the mission of CPA," he said.

BW CAR RENTAL
Starting at \$40/day • \$600/month
FREE Pick up and Drop off Service
1-670-287-2727
Mon-Sun 9AM-9PM
Located in Garapan, near Century Insurance Bldg.
WE BUY USED CARS

Feel the spring and the joy of Easter
Come in and see our Easter displays.

Rent an Easter Tree from now until Friday, April 25, 2014.



Only at *Design Florist* Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan
STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 8:30AM-6:00PM
For more information, please call 234-5593 or 235-8572

NMTI turns in more documents; SHEFA expands data gathering

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board disclosed Thursday that the Northern Marianas Trade Institute recently turned in more information that will help the former establish a policy dealing with vocational and trade schools in the Commonwealth.

However, SHEFA said the additional documents are still inadequate as board members agreed to continue to talk with NMTI and get more data on the institution's operation and curriculum, among others.

Board member Ursula Aldan even recommended a site visit to aid the board in coming up with a sound policy.

As of Thursday, nothing has been set in stone as to when the board is expected to come up with the final policy for trade schools or what specific requirements it will set for potential scholars.

But vice chair Jose Mafnas said, "In terms of requirements [for NMTI scholars], it's a policy call for us."

Meantime, among the records shown during Thursday's meeting were documents that indicated that the former SHEFA board approved 150-hour sessions as a base requirement for CNMI scholars.

John Pialur, chairman of the committee on programs and de-

velopment, said this "is something the board can work with" for NMTI.

Pialur said that in his panel's last meeting with NMTI director Vic Cepeda on March 4, one major concern the trade school is currently faced with is a lack of textbooks.

The board was also informed that NMTI has about 50 students this semester and sessions started two months ago.

Despite the willingness and commitment of the SHEFA board to assist NMTI scholars, however, there is no telling as to how they plan to provide it, whether after course completion or at the beginning of classes.

In the case of the Workforce Investment Agency, which funds many scholars at the trade institute, financial aid comes after the course's completion in the form of reimbursement.

SHEFA used to provide \$1,000 grants to NMTI scholars per term. The first and last checks awarded to trade institute students was in 2010.

It was earlier disclosed that NMTI students are technically ineligible for financial assistance from SHEFA because its enabling rules exclude grants for trade and vocational schools. The only way to go around this is to rewrite the policy and regulations, or establish specific rules and regulation dealing with trade and vocational scholars.

Covenant Day is a day
we remember and relish
our unique relationship
with the United States.

Happy Covenant Day!

From the management and staff of

Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com

Freedom Air operation in the CNMI is now 'inactive'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There's one less carrier serving the CNMI after it was confirmed that Freedom Air ceased flying to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota early this month.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director MaryAnn Lizama said Friday that the company's liability insurance was recently cancelled and CPA has been not notified of its reinstatement.

She disclosed that based on the notice of termination/cancellation of policy issued by Kudlich Insurance, Freedom Air's coverage expired on March 8, 2014. No further cor-

respondence was received from the insurance company.

"Freedom Air's activities have been grounded. It has been noted that no activities are occurring on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. No further notice from Kudlich Insurance to cancel the notice of termination and cancellation of policy has been reported [to CPA]," said Lizama during Friday's board meeting.

The cancellation, it was learned, has also been relayed to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach the offices of Freedom Air on Saipan, but no one answered the phone lines.

Kudlich nearly terminated Freedom Air's insurance policy in August last year due to unpaid premiums. The carrier,

however, was able to pay before the deadline, resulting in its continued operation.

Aviation insurance provides

coverage for hull losses as well as liability for passenger injuries, as well as environmental and third-party damage caused

by aircraft accidents.

The carrier filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Guam in September last year.

» Liability insurance expired on March 8

IEDC names Knight its new VP of Knowledge Management

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The International Economic Development Council announced on March 19 that Lynn A. Knight has been appointed vice president of Knowledge Management and Development of the Washington, D.C.-based organization. A Certified Economic Developer, Knight joined IEDC on March 10, reporting to Jeff Finkle, IEDC president and CEO.

"I am pleased to welcome Lynn to our team. Her

broad economic development knowledge combined with extensive management experience both in the U.S. and internationally makes Lynn uniquely well-suited to IEDC's mission," said Finkle.

Knight's roles and responsibilities include managing a team of professional researchers, project managers, and content developers who are tasked with staying on top of the latest trends in economic development. In this position she

works closely with the IEDC leadership and the Economic Development Research Partners, a high level membership think tank, manages the organization's newsletter and research publications, develops conference and webinar content, reviews publications for the IEDC's ever-expanding library and bookstore, oversees federally-sponsored

and a full service advertising agency, which she operated for 14 years. Knight earned a double major in Communications and Psychology from California State University, Chico.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to do meaningful work in a field that ties together all of my past experience," said Knight. "My work in the Marianas helped



Knight

economic development projects, technical assistance and cooperative projects that are undertaken with partner organizations.

Prior to joining IEDC, Knight served as the director of Economic Development Programs for Management Analysis, Inc., consulting with local and federal government clients in six states. She served as the representative of a territorial governor in Washington D.C., chaired two economic development commissions, a hotel association and the Chamber of Commerce for the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For eight years she was a vice president of Tan Holdings, an international firm that operated businesses in a dozen industries. Early in her career she was an entrepreneur, founding a business incubator

prepare me for this in many ways—having seen the rise and fall of an economy, efforts to diversify and grow industries, the way people and public-private organizations collaborated on the recovery efforts—it was all great experience that has broadened my perspective on economic development."

The International Economic Development Council is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,300 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth, and provide a stable tax base. Visit www.iedconline.org for more information. (IEDC)

Manglona dismisses Tracy's suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed William A. Tracy's lawsuit against several businesses on Saipan for allegedly having facilities that are not accessible to persons with disabilities. Tracy was reportedly found dead last Feb. 7.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted attorney Ramon K. Quichocho's request on Thursday to dismiss Tracy's lawsuit.

Manglona stated that the court would be retaining jurisdiction in this lawsuit to enforce the court's prior order on the sanctions imposed against Quichocho. Once the sanctions issue is resolved, the case shall be fully closed, she said.

Based on the dismissal of the case, Manglona said that Ming Yang Corp. and Donald Buf-ton's motion to dismiss the lawsuit is deemed moot.

Last March 6, Manglona sanctioned Quichocho for his late filing of Tracy's opposition to a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The judge ordered Quicho-

cho to pay for their time all four lawyers who appeared in court at the time to argue their motions to dismiss the case. She required Quichocho to pay these costs personally and not charge his client, Tracy.

Last Thursday, Quichocho told the court that Tracy had been found dead last Feb. 7 but that he actually passed away before that date.

Quichocho said Petra Rulyan told him last March 13, 2014, that Tracy had already been buried.

Tracy is the father of Rulyan's children. No other details about Tracy's death were indicated in the notice.

During Thursday's hearing, Quichocho asked the court's guidance to dismiss the lawsuit under its discretion.

Attorneys Mark Scoggins, Linn Asper, and Samuel Mok, respective counsels for Ming Yang Corp. that owns Ming Yang Market and New Ming Yang Market, Donald Buf-ton who owns Round II, and DKK Inc. that owns D.K. Poker, and P&A Corp. that owns P&A Laundry, asked the court to dismiss the case.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2547



CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community/faith based organizations to participate in a Summer Program Grant. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Programs to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 13 years old. Eligible proposals may receive up to \$20,000. For this grant, a total of seven (7) awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate.

CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets maybe picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office, Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Completed applications along with 4 copies should be placed in a sealed envelope marked: **CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2014** and submitted to the CCDF Program Office with address above. Applications will be accepted no later than April 15, 2014 at 12:00p.m. Faxed and emailed applications will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant.

Inquiries regarding this grant opportunity should be addressed to Roselle Teregeyo, CCDF Accountant/Summer Program Lead or Maribel Loste, CCDF Administrator and can be made in the following way:

1. In writing and forwarded to the address above or
2. Thru e-mail at ccdf.roselleteregeyo@gmail.com or ccdf.maribelloste@gmail.com

Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

Approved for distribution:
/s/Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary

Date: 03/18/14

Youth Congress senators host summit



Senators of the 14th CNMI Youth Congress held their annual summit last Friday on Capitol Hill in the House Chambers. Community officials and the senators themselves presented on topics ranging from applying to college to bullying.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **THOMAS MANGLONA II**
CORRESPONDENT

Senators of the 14th CNMI Youth Congress held their annual summit on Friday in the House of Representatives chamber on Capitol Hill. A total of 20 students from both public and private high schools on Saipan participated in the seven-hour summit that saw presentations by community officials and the youth senators themselves.

According to Youth Summit chair and Tinian High School representative Kyle Sandbergen, the Youth Congress began planning Friday's event several months ago. Sandbergen wished more students attended the summit but thinks that an "important message was voiced out."

Edwig Hofschneider, who represented the College Access Challenge Grant, told students that the program's purpose is to promote the value of higher education and prepare disad-

tagged, native Pacific islanders to enroll, remain, and succeed in college.

Maise Tenorio of the CNMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence educated participants about the different types of sexual assaults and harassment. Her message to the youth: "You are the boss of your own body. Decide what to do with it. Do not be afraid to seek guidance if anyone violates your personal boundaries."

In a presentation called "College 101," Rota youth senator Mona Manglona and Sandbergen recounted their personal experiences and successes in preparing and applying for college and passing the SAT.

Marianas High School senator Maria Dizon and fellow youth senator and Marianas Baptist Academy representative Kanata Omori had the students talking about the pros and cons of today's technologically advanced world and social networking. Their presentation, called "Social NOT-working,"

had the student's debating whether or not social media has a negative or positive effect in people's lives.

Mount Carmel School youth senator Thomas Manglona II presented "Teen Truth: Bullying," a program focused on why bullying takes place in schools and what students can do to be the difference.

Dizon believes the group educated a majority of the participants on a wide range

of topics. She recognized that although the summit only garnered 20 participants out of the 100 that were invited, it came to their advantage. "It was a blessing in disguise because we really got to have some one-on-one interaction and got to the students," she said.

One Marianas High School participant, junior Russell Javan, said that taking part in the summit helped her learn more about college and bullying.

"We can hopefully decrease bullying offline and online as well as get more students into college. These issues happen at my school all the time. I am going to tell them to stop. I do not want bullying to be around anymore."

Mount Carmel School sophomore Lance Deleon Guerrero expressed similar sentiments. "I think it is really awesome about the different topics the presenters gave. I feel like all

the information was helpful and I will use all of the information later on in life."

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero and other representatives visited the summit and thanked the students for coming together and illuminating current issues and hot topics in the CNMI.

Members of the CNMI Youth Congress are allotted a \$1,000 budget to sponsor the summit every year.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help CATHOLIC HOUSE Lent/Kuaresma Books!

We also have Chamorro and English Novena and other religious items.

+ Leblon Estasion yan kantan Kuaresma book

+ I Siete Finihu Book

+ Way of the Cross Book

Available for Sale



Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan • Open Mon. thru Sat. 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 501370 • SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-3751/68 Fax: (670) 664-3760



Head Start Policy Council Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Oleai Head Start Resource Center, Oleai, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Quorum
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. January 24, 2014 Regular Meeting
 - b. February 27, 2014 Regular Meeting
 - c. March 6, 2014 Special Meeting
- II. Public Comments¹
- III. Communication
 1. From the State Board of Education
 2. From the Office of Head Start
- IV. Monthly Reports
 1. Director
 2. Finance Director
 3. Center Representatives
- V. Old Business
 1. Child Outcomes -Fall/Winter Comparative Report
 2. Approval of Tanapag Head Start Fence Project
 3. SY 13-14 Self Assessment Draft Report
 4. SY 13-14 Community Assessment Draft Report
- VI. New Business
 1. Overall Health & Safety Report
 2. Overview of Health Services Data
 3. SY 13-14 WOYC
 4. SY 13-14 Health Symposium
 5. SY 13-14 Final Transition Plans-Inter-grade Level Meetings
 6. March 11 Health Services Advisory Committee Meeting Report
 7. NMC Career Day
 8. CLASS Reliable Observers
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters
- VIII. Executive Session²
- IX. Next Meeting
- X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Mrs. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org, several days notice is required.

/s/ Roy Ada
Chairperson

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Today marks the 38th year of our political relationship with the United States. Let us take a moment and reflect on this milestone that gave us the autonomy we enjoy today.



A meaningful

Covenant Day to all!

EDWARD MANIBUSAN

for Attorney General

The right person with the right experience

Email: manibusanforag@gmail.com • Website: www.edmanibusanforag.com



La Trattoria now serves breakfast and lunch

Drive no farther than La Trattoria along Middle Road (across the Commonwealth Health Center) for authentic Italian cuisine, now open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Starting today, March 24, owner Vlad Melnik said the Italian restaurant will start serving lunch and breakfast after tickling the palates of island residents and tourists alike at dinnertime since it opened in February.

Chef Mar Balladares, who has been on Saipan since 1990, whips up traditional Italian dishes at La Trattoria and has lots of experience when it comes to Italian food.

Among the breakfast dishes La Trattoria will be serving is triple-layered pancake with mascarpone and coffee cara-

mel glaze, stuffed French toast focaccia bread, chicken florentine crepes, and homemade pastries.

Expected to whet the appetites of La Trattoria's lunch customers are fillet of cod and linguini al gamberi dishes and a daily lunch buffet.

Breakfast fare ranges from \$9 to \$14, while the prices for lunch dishes are from \$11 to \$16.

La Trattoria is open for breakfast from 6:30am to 9:30am and lunch is from 11:30am to 2pm.

Melnik said the dearth of affordable authentic Italian restaurants prompted him to open La Trattoria early this year. He said his restaurant is inspired by recipes of author and Italian cuisine connoisseur Ella Martino,

CONTACT INFO
Tel: 233-7600

ADVERTISING
Feature



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Owner Vlad Melnik Melnik said the dearth of affordable authentic Italian restaurants prompted him to open La Trattoria early this year.

who he said will be visiting Saipan soon.

Like the restaurant's lovely interior, Melnik is not scrimping on cost for ingredients as his restaurant uses only the best quality brands and freshest produce.

Aside from its breakfast and lunch offerings, La Trattoria is open for dinner from 6pm to 11pm. It has seats for 60 diners.

Melnik also has future plans to open La Trattoria II along the beach close to Aquarius

Beach Tower Hotel in Susupe. He said the open-air restaurant will have a traditional firewood oven ideal for creating authentic Italian pizza.

For reservations, call La Trattoria at 233-7600. (*Saipan Tribune*)



Tiramisu in a cup is also served at La Trattoria.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Broschetta is made from fresh and high-end ingredients.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Linguini al gamberi has become one of the La Trattoria's customer favorites.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Covenant Day CNMI



Thank you for all you do to make our Commonwealth and our community prosper.

We appreciate your support and hope you have a wonderful and safe Covenant Day Holiday.

Sincerely,



Your CNMI Republican Party

Paid for by the CNMI Republican Party: Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, Treasurer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No.58Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

General's wrist slap highlights a military weakness

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair provided the ironic coda Thursday to one of the military's most scrutinized courts-martial: "The system worked."

For him, it did. The former deputy commander of U.S. forces in southern Afghanistan will walk away with no jail time, despite charges of a three-year affair with a captain and two other inappropriate relationships with subordinates. And those were the cleaned-up allegations; sexual assault charges were dropped when he pleaded guilty to the lesser counts.

Adultery is a crime under military law, but apparently not a terribly serious one for a general who was second in command for the famed 82nd Airborne. Once facing more than 20 years in prison, Sinclair cut a deal to serve no more than 18 months. And the judge in his court-martial, Col. James Pohl, bent even further toward leniency, letting Sinclair retire early with a reprimand, full benefits and a \$20,000 fine.

In military outposts around the globe, American grunts shook their heads knowingly: One set of laws for them, another one for the brass.

Sinclair had been accused of twice forcing a captain to engage in oral sex after she tried to break off their affair. He also faced a forcible sodomy charge and was accused of grabbing her genitalia against her will and having sex with her in public.

All of that disappeared amid allegations that military prosecutors had to do their jobs with superior officers looking over their shoulders and exercising their authority. The captain's credibility came under serious question; military officials were accused of scuttling an earlier plea deal. In short, the case devolved into a mess.

Anyone paying attention—Sinclair is believed to be the highest-ranking U.S. officer to face sexual assault allegations—had little reason to trust the decision-making when it became clear that powers other than trained prosecutors were interceding in matters of law.

Any criminal case, especially one with sexual allegations, can become complicated. This is as true in the civilian world as the military. The obvious difference is that the standard in civilian prosecution is for actual prosecutors to make the calls. It would be naive to believe politics never get in the way, but that's the inappropriate (and sometimes illegal) exception, not the rule.

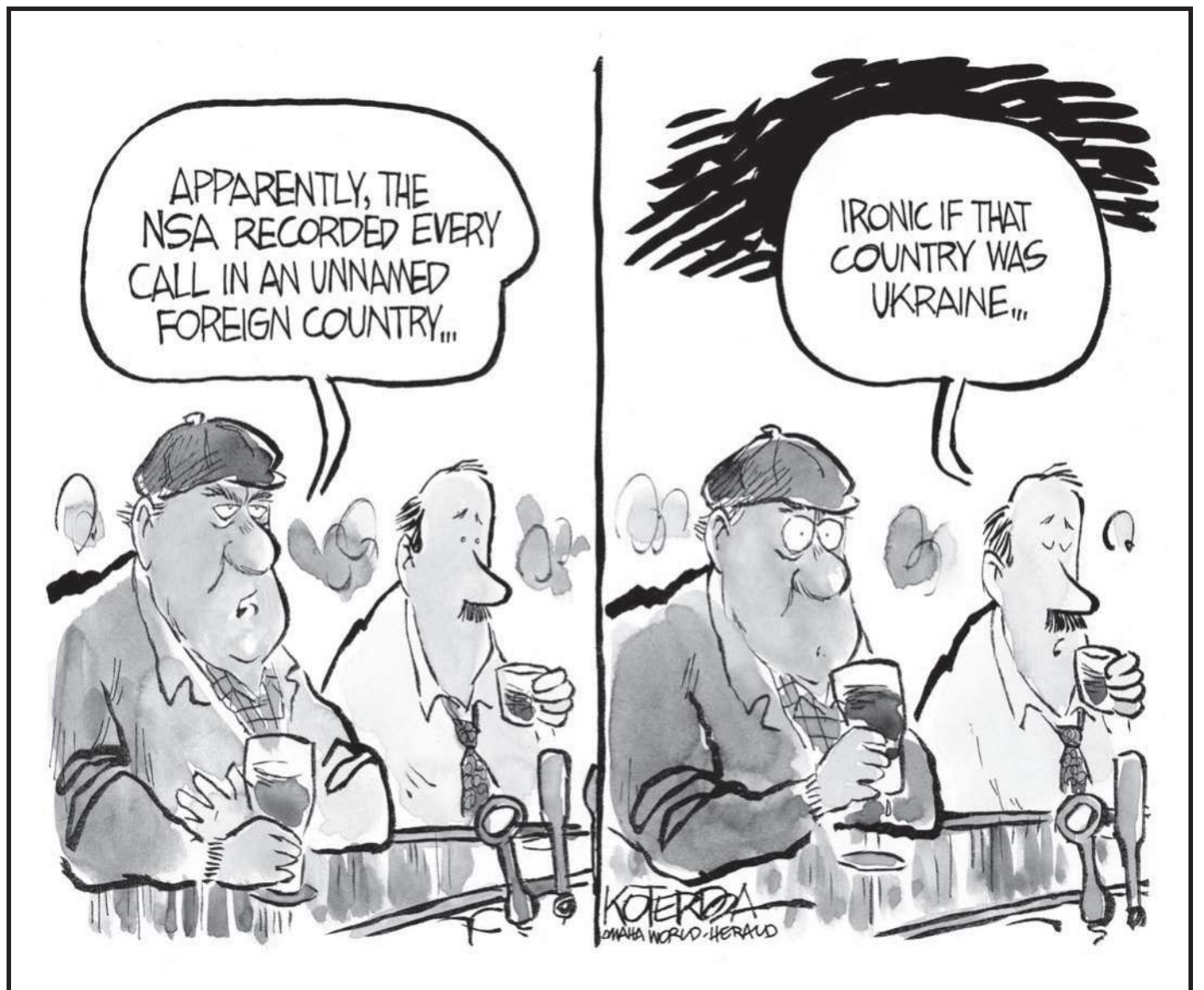
This is one more reason a minority of U.S. senators were wrong to block consideration of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's bill to place responsibility for sexual assault cases in the hands of seasoned prosecutors, rather than military commanders.

Despite bipartisan support, the New York Democrat could not muster the 60 votes needed to proceed, and the Senate opted to pass a lesser bill to remove the "good soldier" defense. More than nothing, but not much.

The Gillibrand bill wouldn't have affected the Sinclair case directly, but it would have given confidence to future sexual assault complainants that chain-of-command considerations would not override right and wrong.

©2014 The Dallas Morning News
See GENERAL on Next Page

Sinclair



MH370

Anyone following the international news would know by now what MH370 refers to. It is Malaysian Airlines flight 370 originating in Kuala Lumpur on March 8 headed for Beijing that lost contact with air traffic control 40 minutes into the flight, and literally disappeared from monitoring civilian radar screens. (The flight had 227 passengers, two infants, and 12 members of the crew, 239 total. The 14 nationalities included New Zealanders, Iranians, Americans, and Indonesians. Two thirds of the passengers, 153 were Chinese; two other passengers were traveling with stolen passports.)

I do not wish to rehash what is available in the international news outlet. Our title actually refers to media hubris (MH) and we are keeping the number 370 to indicate that media's hubris is no longer a rare exception but seem to be the order of the day.

I point out two media hubris in the current tragedy of the missing plane. One comes from representatives of the news media out to sensationalize the tragedy as has become a hallowed practice in Western journalism. No TV interview is worth its share of Nielsen's audience without an interviewer asking the subjective question of "what does that make you feel." Worst, some journalists covering the MH370 mystery pretend to represent the perspective of the families of passengers awaiting word on the final fate of their loved ones by highlighting fears and dread, or implying absence of transparency or promoting dubious conspiracy theories.

A pointed question on what the Malaysian Defense Minister and acting Transport Minister Hishamuddin Hussein, who had been holding the daily briefings, personally felt. In one of those "confrontations," he had to pull in his wife and children's sentiments and presence to show his empathy toward the families of the passengers. A tragedy has been turned into theatre.

I was 17 when I first went before a radio microphone as a news broadcaster, and my source then was the national daily that came by plane from Manila to the capital town of Tuguegarao in Cagayan. Without the paper, I listened to national broadcast with a pencil and paper. In either case, the choice of news items for inclusion was that it can be verified and confirmed. Reasonable comes in as a distant third, and emotions involved did not play a role at all.

Another item our international media keep pushing is that Malaysia had not been transparent in sharing information with the affected families, the concerned governments involved, and the general public.

(The behavior of family members of Chinese passengers in Beijing in demanding a more humble stance from Malaysian officials, e.g., one shouted at Malaysian officials to stand up and bow when introduced rather than remain seated and nod, stems from two cultural aspects: one is the Sino reflex to hold a person of authority

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



personally accountable in moments of tragedy and expect them to tarnish their polished "face" with abject humility, and the other is the way Chinese are treated of late as second class citizens in Malaysia [traditionally true in the Indo-Malay peninsula that includes the Philippines] with the ascent of the dominant United Malaysian Party in Malaysia's politics [Indonesia was genocidal, and the Philippines localizes Chinese names like Cojuangco, the maiden name of President Cory Aquino] at the expense of the fractured and leadership Chinese Party.)

Malaysian authorities and spokespersons claim to be transparent in conveying verified information to the local and foreign media representatives, but shun speculations bereft of confirmation. Fair enough.

But this is where the mystery gets a bit murky. We deliberately noted above the last contact of MH370 with civilian radar but was quiet on military and intelligence data. On the other side of the NSA spying scandal, and Indonesia's charge that Canberra and Singapore were engaged in satellite spying on their neighbors, it is not surprising that intelligence gathered data was not quick in forthcoming.

I shan't speculate. I am not even sure if China's confirmation of the previous images of two floating debris came from 18 satellites, or 18 passes of one satellite, but one can understand why governments are not too forthcoming with their data if it came as a result of an operating system not otherwise publicly known.

As of these writing, palette debris was sighted off the southwestern end of the Indian Ocean toward Australia in the massive international effort at locating the missing flight. There are now 26 nations involved on two corridors, and if the Internet is the only source of one's news, I can understand how many are drawn into all kinds of conspiracies and speculations.

It is March Madness in college basketball, and the EU-USA axis is still smarting over Russia's unapologetic retaking of Crimea. These are three items on our news plates of late, and I trust the members of Chinese families at the Lido in Beijing will finally find out this week a verified and confirmed destiny of their family members.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Innovation vs regulation

The free enterprise system, while imperfect in all its historic success, must be given a chance to flourish even in small pearly isles like the NMI.

Oops! Sorry. Are legislators up to speed with the concept of innovation so an understanding is in place before we move on?

Doing things right brings into full view the need to focus on innovation rather than regulation. It's basically simple: A light touch from government encourages innovation quicker than otherwise. Silicon Valley is a perfect example of light taxes and regulations. Texas has led the troops on this score.

Too much fees, taxes, and stifling regulations exact the complete opposite. It's this very set of facts that annihilated investments in the Golden State.

But how does the CNMI pursue innovation if at all?

A commission on investments should be established and charged with the review of fees, excise tax, and other predatory or incendiary policies that have dissuaded or scared investors from coming to the islands. It should also review the financial viability of all investors to ensure we aren't dealing with speculators or fully shielded criminal elements.

Let's begin by fostering a strong sense of responsibility to instill stability in the policies we place on the table for thoughtful review. Let's not vacillate for purposes of political convenience. Nah! That sends all the wrong messages to investors of substance.

Discontent

We've unjustly demonized CW workers when in fact they're gainfully employed paying their dues to the local coffers. They're here in view of our ill-conceived decision to build beyond our ability to support the hotel industry with local warm bodies.

Not casting aspersions, but have we raised the same questions against FASayers who are here unemployed and feeding off a hog's back? Why can't we demand U.S. Immigration to look at this issue a bit more critically given the usually late remittance of Compact Impact funds?

Now, we seem to hold the view that raising the minimum wage would effectively grant all employees salary bumps upwards. Not quite. U.S. minimum wage law exempts companies earning less than \$500,000 annually from paying federally mandated MW. So where's the benefit?

Moreover, firms that could afford it must pay upfront. Paying \$5.50 an hour is about two dollars short of the federal minimum wage. Locals who receive such wage and must still apply for food stamps to support the other half of their needs is a tale in itself.

GENERAL

From Page 10

Fred Phelps' legacy of hate

Fred Phelps' life work, if that's what hate-mongering can be called, depended on getting attention, so we will keep this short.

Phelps and his pseudo church, mostly family members, were indecent enough to picket funerals of gays and service members whom they saw as symbols of a nation too tolerant of homosexuality. They were haters extraordinaire.

Phelps died in hospice care, and we can hope he knew that his work was in vain.

Acceptance of gay men and lesbian women is the great sea change in America. Intolerance is giving way to a high tide of acceptance.

In Columbia, Mo., recently, hundreds formed a human wall a half mile long when a few members of Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church showed up to make an issue of NFL prospect Michael Sam's coming out as a gay man. It is now a badge of honor to be picketed by the increasingly cartoonish Westboro clan.

There is no better evidence that love triumphs over hatred than the statement offered this week by Thomas Witt, executive director of Equality Kansas.

"This is our moment as a community to rise above the sorrow, anger and strife he sowed, and to show the world we are caring and compassionate people who respect the privacy and dignity of all," Witt wrote.

Even at the end, Phelps was outclassed by the people he so inexplicably hated.

In other words, the federal government is subsidizing the companies. If hotels are into this scheme, how about sharing the healthy occupancy rates with your employees so the feds don't have to subsidize your business operations?

Peeking into bonds

While the CNMI has recently passed the one billion dollar mark in debts, it plans to float a pension obligation bond to the tune of \$120 million in hopes of resolving pay for retirees per the settlement agreement. So it seems the paradigm is to engage in short-term answers as to ignore the long-term implications of the loan. Amortized, we're talking paying back over \$219 million in pension obligation bond.

Ahead of the CNMI, Puerto Rico is also dealing with a \$70 billion debt it seeks to cushion by selling \$3.5 billion in bonds. The debt is attributed to some 30 years of negligence. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? The CNMI plan brings into focus two issues:

1). Forcing other taxpayers who won't benefit to cough up money for this purpose. 2). Instantly saddling our children with debts that would annihilate their economic freedom. There's got to be a better way than piling up more debts than we could pay.

It's obvious the CNMI needs better-suited leadership to move the Canoe of Mediocrity out of the Harbor of Bankruptcy. Something's got to give beyond the dimmed and abject fiscal conditions of the CNMI today. It would be one long journey and the "tide waits for no man."

No tomorrow living for today

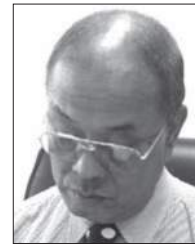
Since December of last year, our focus is stuck in the loss of 25 percent in retirees' pay as to ignore others who withdrew their contributions from the "defined benefit" plan, forfeiting their future after serving for 20 years. But even as I raise this issue, five years from now the current program takes its final trip into the sunset.

How do we deal with employees who can no longer look forward

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



to some form of retirement? Do they get to work forever, spending every penny earned on other obligations today, ignoring saving some for that rainy day? For those without health insurance, are they prepared to deal with emergency health costs, i.e., a family member needing off-island medical specialist attention?

Furthermore, the death of the current program in 2019 also means zero-sum for retirees of nearly 3,000. It also means some \$70 million would be removed from the local economy. There goes revenue generation taking a nosedive.

Employees who withdraw their contributions are spending everything today. So it's a case of living tomorrow today. Not a very promising journey into their golden years, is it?

Appalling how politicians have driven the Fund into bankruptcy by sticking their filthy fingers into the cookie jar, clueless how to keep it operating cash-balanced. Where are they now? Or have they also turned victims of their sheer lack of understanding that you can only eat off the hog's back for so long?

Any which way you dice or splice it, shortsightedness has finally come home to roost in the obvious bankrupting of the Fund. Imagine the 30 percent bonus granted employees who retire early. Imagine inserting beneficiaries who never contributed into the Fund. Broke!

The Fund is on its way to some holy ground for burial in 2019. Would this include the interment of politicians who ensured it is broke by their injection of liberal and bankrupting measures?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Going against the will of the people

The action of the CNMI Legislature to grant an *exclusive* casino license on Saipan to only one casino operator reveals once again the inability of CNMI government leaders to implement economic measures that are grounded in sound public and social policies. The new casino measure is a get-rich-quick scheme that fails to take into account the long-term adverse social and economic consequences on the CNMI community. Once the measure is amended by the Legislature as requested by the administration, it will go back again to the governor, who is expected to sign it into law.

I just do not understand the rationale for passing *by legislation* the exclusive casino measure for Saipan when the people of the CNMI have *time and time again* overwhelmingly rejected so many casino initiatives in the past. The reasons for the defeat of all past casino initiatives have remained the same. Electronic poker machine gambling has literally robbed so many of our people of their hard-earned moneys because of their inability to control either their gambling addiction or their weakness to the temptation to "try their luck." As a result, local business establishments such as groceries and other retail stores, banks, automobile dealers, and so forth, have experienced a substantial decline in business activity because the family money that is intended to be used to buy the basic family necessities has been gambled away.

The argument by proponents of the measure that this time around it will be different because the new casino setup is targeted for tourists is a fallacy. We all know that the exclusive casino measure, once it is signed by the governor, cannot prohibit any resident from patronizing the exclusively-owned casinos. We can also say with certainty that more local residents than tourists will be patronizing the new casinos to try their luck.

I also do not understand why the casino measure was drafted so as to grant an exclusive casino license to only one casino operator on Saipan. Such exclusive setup establishes a monopoly. Monopolies are not favored from a legal, economic, and public policy standpoint because such practice excludes *all competition*. And that is not good for the consuming public.

The only reason for passing an *exclusive* casino measure is because the person or persons interested in opening a casino on Saipan has apparently told CNMI government leaders that the exclusivity provision is non-negotiable. Our leaders should know, however, that granting an exclusive casino license to only one person or firm invites graft and corruption. The CNMI government will most likely be beholden to the dictates of the exclusive casino operator,

because it is this single operator who will be doling out the money for the exclusive license fee to the government, as provided for in the exclusive casino legislation.

Finally, I simply do not understand why many of our civic and business leaders have remained quietly complacent to the surprisingly quick action taken by the proponents of the exclusive casino legislation. I had high hopes when the new administration came on board last year that it was going to come out with a clear economic plan proposing economic solutions and potential industries to initiate that would hopefully begin to stimulate the local economy. But to date, very disappointingly, there has been no economic plan drafted or proposed by this administration.

Just like the past several CNMI administrations, the present government leaders have not initiated any constructive or innovative way to improve the CNMI economy. Our government leaders have been reactive to the local economy, as in the past 10 years. Indeed, the exclusive casino license legislation, I would venture to guess, is most likely the proposal of an investor who wants to invest in the CNMI but on his own terms, i.e., exclusively. We should know that when an investor "calls the shots" in a matter that affects all the people of the CNMI, that should be cause for alarm.

Jose S. Dela Cruz

Navy Hill, Saipan

New law: Yield at least 3 feet to cyclists

This is a reminder that the law requires drivers to pass bicyclist with at least three feet distance between cyclists and their vehicle, and if that space isn't available they are to wait until it is. Now that there are many bikers using the roads in preparation for next month's triathlons, drivers should be particularly vigilant and considerate of those that share the roads. Cyclist have the same right to use the roads as vehicles and drivers need to remember to give them at least three feet of safe distance. Thank you.






Paul Plunkett

Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Windy	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 79

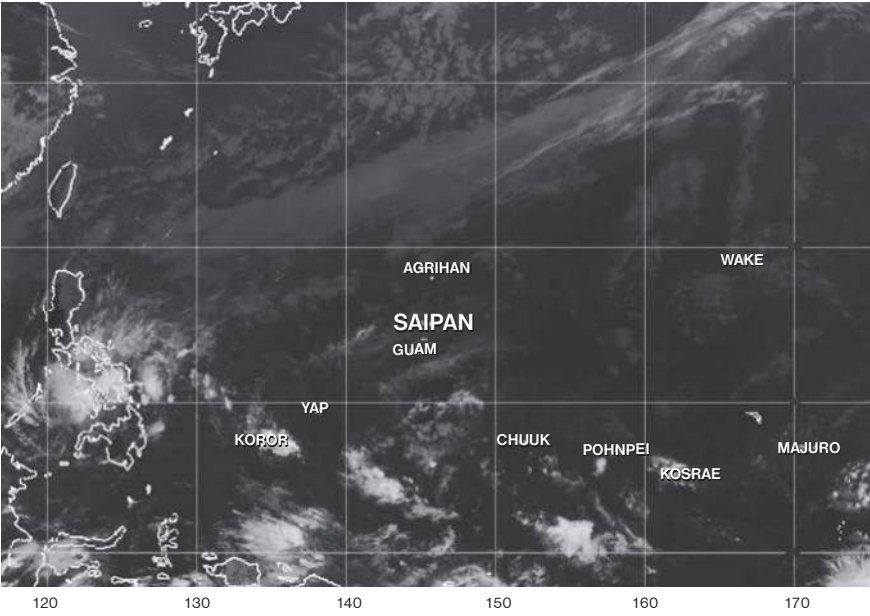
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 60
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 50
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 56
Manila	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 56
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 71
New York	Sunny	▲ 37 ▼ 29
Osaka	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 53
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 39
Pusan	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 48
Rome	Rain	▲ 53 ▼ 41
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 49
Seoul	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 44
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 49
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 45 ▼ 30

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
8:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
1:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
9:02 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front stretches southwestward from near Minami Torishima at 25N154E to 20N140E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 330 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough runs east-southeastward from 7N130E to end at the equator and 170E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Chuuk and Pohnpei states between 9N and the equator from 144E to 161E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marshall Islands within 50 miles of a line from 6N175E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:21 AM	12:04 PM
Tuesday	1:17 AM	1:03 PM
Wednesday	2:12 AM	2:03 PM
Thursday	3:04 AM	3:04 PM
Friday	3:54 AM	4:04 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily		UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily		UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily	
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota		UA5039	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
					UA5038	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota	
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6		UA5077	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily		UA5079	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)					GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5038	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6	
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)					ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5038	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ101	8:30am	2:00pm	3	
OZ102	2:20am	5:50am	3		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6	
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
					OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
OZ104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6		OZ6053	9:10pm	2:30am+1	3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5		MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		PR110/UA5072	7:35am	5:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:05am	3, 6 via GUM		DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT	
DL287/473	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5077	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 7 via Guam	
UA5068/PR111	8:40am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA190/5079	10:00am	5:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	
					OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:30pm	5 via Guam		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Guam		UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM		UA184/5071	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
UA5078/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM						
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
					OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM		UA180/5071	11:10pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	
UA5038/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM						
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)					TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN				
D2884	10:45am	2:45pm	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24		D2885	4:45pm	12:20am +1	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
D2880	4:30pm	8:00pm	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27		D2881	10:00pm	5:15am +1	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)					WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN				
D2882	11:00am	3:15pm	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26		D2883	5:15pm	12:20am +1	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
RE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
RE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
RE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
RE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam							
	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
RE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
RE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
RE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
RE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
RE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
RE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
RE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
RE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

CNMI celebrates 38 years of becoming part of US

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Today marks the 38th year since U.S. President Gerald Ford signed a joint congressional resolution approving a mutu-

ally negotiated "Covenant" that made the Northern Mariana Islands a part of the American political family and later made the islands' residents U.S. citizens. But while there are no festivities to mark Covenant Day, as it is

called, adults and young ones reflect on the day's significance.

Octavius "Skep" Palacios, 46, said most of what he knew about the significance of the Covenant's signing on March 24, 1976, he learned from his

father, the late Dr. Francisco Taman Palacios, one of the 13 framers of the Covenant from the CNMI.

"And my father passed away on Covenant Day itself in 1983," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

bune yesterday.

He conceded that many of the younger generations do not know or understand the significance of Covenant Day. The education process, he said, should not only involve schools or

teachers, but more importantly, parents themselves and community members.

"I think the parents and all of us community members have a responsibility, too, to pass on to our kids and the next generation knowledge about Covenant Day, about being U.S. citizens, about the CNMI being part of America. I do wish the youths of today learn about the Covenant, there are also a lot of resources to read about it," Palacios added.

Besides the late Dr. Francisco Taman Palacios, the other framers of the Covenant were Edward DLG. Pangelinan, Vicente N. Santos, Juan LG. Cabrera, Vicente T. Camacho, Jose R. Cruz, Bernard V. Hofschneider, Benjamin T. Manglona, Daniel T. Muña, Manuel A. Sablan, Joannes B. Taimanao, and Pedro A. Tenorio.

"Bo" Palacios, national committeeman of the NMI Republican Party, said yesterday that there's much room for improvement in educating more youths about Covenant Day, which he describes as a "momentous" part of CNMI's history.

Some high school and college students approached yesterday at the GOP kickoff rally said they didn't know much about Covenant Day. But some of them said they would like to learn more about it.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, said Friday that despite some people's feelings that the Covenant didn't provide some of their expectations, "overall, most of us are happy with the status quo."

"We should reflect on that day, the day that the will of the people at the time—we're talking about 78.8 percent of those who voted in favor—I think it was a good decision on our leaders' part," he added.

The speaker added that even compared to other U.S. insular areas, the CNMI's ability to govern itself "is broader than some of the other territories."

Of the 95 percent of all registered voters in the Northern Marianas who cast ballots in the plebiscite, 78.8 percent voted to approve the Covenant.

The Covenant was subsequently approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 21, 1975, and by the U.S. Senate on Feb. 24, 1976.

A month later, President Ford signed Public Law 94-241 (90 Stat. 263), enacting the Covenant.

Some provisions became effective on that date, pursuant to Covenant Section 1003(a).

The remaining provisions became effective on Jan. 9, 1978, as well as on Nov. 4, 1986, when qualified residents of the Northern Mariana Islands became U.S. citizens.

Covenant Day is an observed CNMI holiday. Most government offices and some private businesses are closed today.

Magical musical night enchants Saipan audiences

By THOMAS MANGLONA
CORRESPONDENT

World renowned classical pianist Roman Rudnytsky graced the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose stage with elegant musical pieces and inspiring sonatas last Saturday as dozens of community members witnessed what some said was "musical history" for the CNMI.

The internationally active concert pianist, who has performed in over 100 countries, enchanted his audience with a versatile repertoire that ranged from Ludwig van Beethoven's *Sonata quasi una fantasia in C sharp minor* composed in the 1770s to Claude Debussy's *Estampes* written a hundred years later.

Along with the signature sounds that resonated throughout the audience was Saipan's very own musical jewels: Marianas High School's Rhythm 'N Harmony and the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band, along with the Pacific Winds Ensemble.

After his solo performances the two groups surrounded the pianist on stage to conclude the two-hour event. MHS Rhythm 'N Harmony performed *Dies*

Irae by Wolfgang Mozart arranged by Maurizio Machella in Latin with Rudnytsky on the piano. The performance was a repeat of the club's recent performance at the Guam Tumon Bay Music Festival where he and the group presented the command performance.

The evening of magical music ended with the SSHS Manta Ray Band performing George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with Rudnytsky.

The performance received a standing ovation.

Friends of the Arts president Susan Tudor told *Saipan Tribune* that Rudnytsky has visited the islands seven times before and once to perform a patriotic medley for the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Saipan. Tudor described Rudnytsky as "selfless, kind, and brilliant."

Tudor said the artistic abilities of the youth and adults of Saipan have risen dramatically over the past few years.

"I believe that FOA has a major contribution in that as does the SSHS Manta Ray Band and the recent addition of the Rhythm 'N Harmony," she said.

Trombone player and SSHS student Jun Seo "Alen" Park said that he is thankful



THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Rudnytsky, left, explains a bit of musical history while the Saipan Southern High School Band and members of the Pacific Winds concern Band prepare for the night's final performance.

for the pianist's invitation to play music on stage. "This is my first time playing with such a renowned player. I am thankful he invited us to play with him and it is such a rare opportunity"

"I think this is very new for the kids. Someone of Roman's stature and musicality brings the kids' level to a new one," said MHS Glee director Paul Dujua.

SSHS Band director and conductor William DeWitt expressed the same senti-

ments. "This is truly a first, this is historic. We feel honored that we could be on stage with him because he is world renowned."

SSHS clarinet player and student Kanani Lee said the experience was an honor for her as well. "Being in his presence is a shock. It is so special."

MHS Rhythm 'N Harmony singer Anabelle Manzo echoed Lee. "I feel honored to perform. I was little nervous and excited."

Rudnytsky told the audience that he is glad to be back on Saipan and has "enjoyed playing for the students."

He will be visiting schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to play and discuss music with students this week.

His second show on March 29, 2014, will also be held at the Multi-Purpose Center and will cost \$12 for Friends of the Art members, \$15 for non-member adults and \$8 for students. The show will start at 7pm.

McDonald's donates to SSHS nursing class

McDonald's Saipan gave a generous donation to Saipan Southern High School's nursing assistantship program last March 14 to help it purchase uniforms, books, and pay for the pinning ceremony for upcoming graduates.

McDonald's general manager Marcia Ayuyu presented the check to SSHS vice principal Glenn Smith, the program's nurse Laticia Reyes, and three students under the program.

Ayuyu said they hope the donation will encourage more students to join the program.

"McDonald's employees are happy to help out to donate to this program because it helps a lot of students. We like to help because it will benefit a lot of them and more would eventually be interested in the program," she said.

The program has had five cohorts since 2009.

Jin Pyo Jeon, 17, who is currently the president of the fifth

cohort, said the program is very educational and rewarding, particularly since it was his first time to have hands-on experience in nursing.

Rufino Aquino, 19, said he plans to complete the course and take up nursing courses that he can use when he joins the military.

Allysha Lloren, 17, who is also on her way to completing the course, said, "The nursing experience was an overall great opportunity and I was always shy and grew as a person in the program and improved my people skills." She said she learned to take blood pressure and do blood sugar checks and it made her appreciate what nurses do alongside doctors.

Reyes said that more than 100 students have completed the course and many are pursuing nursing at the Northern Marianas College.

The program is in collaboration with the Division of Pub-



JAYSON CAMACHO

McDonald's general manager Marcia Ayuyu presents a generous donation to Saipan Southern High School's nursing assistantship program last March 14.

lic Health. Students become a part of the cohorts during their junior year in high school and need to complete 100 hours. They are also required to com-

plete another 100 hours during their senior year.

They also do hours of clinical sessions at the hospital after their main class at the school.

After completion of the course, they will graduate with a nursing assistant certificate and be an actual nursing assistant after taking a test. (Jayson Camacho)

Business

Are tougher sanctions against Russia to come?

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. sanctions against a Russian bank and the Kremlin’s inner circle have pinched Moscow, but if the goal is to get President Vladimir Putin to roll his forces out of Crimea or deter him from doing any more land grabs, their effectiveness remains in doubt.

Putin has mocked the punitive steps President Barack Obama has taken so far in their post-Cold War game of chess - or chicken.

Putin made jokes of Obama’s decision this week to freeze the assets of businessmen with close ties to him as well as Bank Rossiya, which provides them support. Putin quickly retaliated by slapping travel restrictions on nine U.S. officials and lawmakers, including Sen. John McCain, who quipped: “I guess this means my spring break in Siberia is off.”

More serious repercussions loom if the standoff heats up.

For now, Putin says there is no need for further Russian retaliation, yet his Foreign Ministry said Moscow would “respond harshly.”

Putin claims to have no plans for further incursions into Ukraine or elsewhere in the neighborhood. But he’s not planning to reverse Russia’s annexation of Crimea either.

The U.S. and Europe are left to weigh the possibility of levying tougher measures on



The head office of Bank Rossiya in St. Petersburg, Russia, Friday, March 21, 2014. Two Russian banks, including Bank Rossiya, the Russian lender which was put on the Treasury’s sanctions list, said Visa and MasterCard have stopped providing services to them.

Russia’s energy and banking sectors. That could backfire if Moscow, in turn, seized American or other foreign assets or cut exports of natural gas to Europe, which is heavily dependent on Russia for energy.

“If Russia doesn’t do anything other than what they’ve done so far with Crimea, I think the Obama administration will probably stand pat with the sanctions that it has already imposed,” said Richard Fontaine, president of the Washington-

based Center for a New American Security. “I think they are waiting to see if this is the end of the Russian adventurism, or if there is more to come, and then they will react with more sanctions accordingly.”

By taking a step-by-step approach, the U.S. is giving Russia a chance to take the “diplomatic off-ramp” and resolve the crisis, Fontaine said. “The problem with that is that Putin has shown absolutely no appetite to take any off-ramp,” he said.

“If the off-ramp means reversing what he’s done in Crimea, I don’t think these sanctions are going to achieve that.”

Just the threat of harsher sanctions has dampened the outlook for the fragile Russian economy. Russian stocks were under pressure Friday as a second credit rating agency put the country on notice of a possible downgrade. Visa and MasterCard stopped serving two Russian banks, including Bank Rossiya.

and Arizona, little is known about police use of Stingray and any rules governing it.

A Stingray device tricks all cellphones in an area into electronically identifying themselves and transmitting data to police rather than the nearest phone company’s tower. Because documents about Stingrays are regularly censored, it’s not immediately clear what information the devices could capture, such as the contents of phone conversations and text messages, what they routinely do capture based on how they’re configured or how often they might be used.

In one of the rare court cases involving the device, the FBI acknowledged in 2011 that so-called cell site simulator technology affects innocent users in the area where it’s operated, not just a suspect police are seeking.

Earlier this month, journalist Beau Hodai and the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona sued the Tucson Police Department, alleging in court documents that police didn’t comply with the state’s public-records law because they did not fully disclose Stingray-related records and allowed Harris Corp. to dictate what information could be made public.

protecting both police tactics and commercial secrets. The secrecy - at times imposed by nondisclosure agreements signed by police - is pitting obligations under private contracts against government transparency laws.

Even in states with strong open records laws, including Florida



Importing energy from Russia

As the European Union begins to impose sanctions on Russia for its role in the Ukrainian crisis, the EU needs to determine if it is too dependent on Russia for energy.

The big picture

Russia supplies about a third of the EU’s energy; in 2012, the EU imported 162.7 billion euro (\$213.3 billion) in oil, gas and other minerals from Russia, about three-fourths of total energy imports

Natural gas		Crude oil	
Imports from Russia, in terajoules (gross calorific value/GCV), 2011		Imports from Russia, in thousands of tons, 2011	
Germany	1.2 million	35,328	
Italy	752,208	11,354	
Czech Republic	344,849	4,102	
Austria	320,294	1,163	
France	262,447	9,333	
Slovakia	226,185	6,022	
Hungary	199,691	5,887	
Finland	156,304	9,738	
Lithuania	126,778	8,785	
Greece	109,012	4,105	
Bulgaria	105,337	4,763	
Romania	98,569	1,468	
Netherlands	67,414	15,374	
Latvia	65,579	0	
Estonia	23,413	0	
Slovenia	16,432	0	
Luxembourg	11,525	0	
Belgium	2,565	13,537	
Poland	105	21,853	
Denmark	0	219	
Ireland	0	0	
Spain	0	7,977	
Croatia	0	2,120	
Cyprus	0	0	
Portugal	0	424	
Sweden	0	9,655	
United Kingdom	0	4,574	

Source: Eurostat Graphic: Pat Carr © 2014 MCT

Police keep quiet about cell-tracking technology

WASHINGTON (AP)—Police across the country may be intercepting phone calls or text messages to find suspects using a technology tool known as Stingray. But they’re refusing to turn over details about its use or heavily censoring files when they do.

Police say Stingray, a suitcase-size device that pretends it’s a cell tower, is useful for catching criminals, but that’s about all they’ll say.

For example, they won’t disclose details about contracts with the device’s manufacturer, Harris Corp., insisting they are

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart’s new tool gives competitors prices

NEW YORK (AP)—The “Every Day Low Price” king is trying to shake up the world of pricing once again. Wal-Mart told The Associated Press that it has rolled out an online tool that compares its prices on 80,000 food and household products - from canned beans to dishwashing soap - with those of its competitors. If a lower price is found elsewhere, the discounter will refund the difference to shoppers in the form a store credit. The world’s largest retailer began offering the feature, called “Savings Catcher,” on its website late last month in seven big markets that include Dallas, San Diego and Atlanta. The tool compares advertised prices at retailers with physical stores, and not at online rivals like Amazon.com that also offer low prices on staples.

California DMV: No evidence of computer breach

The California Department of Motor Vehicles said Saturday there’s no evidence of a computer breach, but it’s launching an investigation “out of an abundance of caution.” DMV spokesman Armando Botello said the agency was alerted

by law enforcement to a potential security breach within its online credit card processing systems. “There is no evidence at this time of a direct breach of the DMV’s computer system,” Botello said in a statement.

Turkey: Twitter allows ‘character assassination’

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey’s government on Saturday accused Twitter of allowing “systematic character assassinations” a day after social media users easily evaded a government attempt to block access to the network. The attempted crackdown came after links to wiretapped recordings suggesting corruption were posted on Twitter, causing Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s government major embarrassment before local elections on March 30. The government’s effort to shut down the service backfired on Friday, with many finding ways to continue to tweet and mock the government for what they said was a futile attempt at censorship. Even President Abdullah Gul worked around the ban, tweeting that shutting down social media networks cannot “be approved.” Turkey’s move to block Twitter sparked a wave of international criticism.

Report: NSA targeted Chinese tech giant Huawei

BERLIN (AP)—U.S. intelligence agencies hacked into the email servers of Chinese tech giant Huawei five years ago, around the time concerns were growing in Washington that the telecommunications equipment manufacturer was a threat to U.S. national security, two newspapers reported Saturday.

The National Security Agency began targeting Huawei in early 2009 and quickly succeeded in gaining access to the company’s client lists and email archive, German weekly Der Spiegel reported, citing secret U.S. intelligence documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. The New York Times also published a report Saturday about the documents.

Huawei objects to activities that threaten network security, said William B. Plummer, the company’s vice president of external affairs.

“Huawei has declared its willingness to work with gov-

ernments, industry stakeholders and customers in an open and transparent manner, to jointly address the global challenges of network security and data integrity,” Plummer said in an email. “The information presented in Der Spiegel and the New York Times article reaffirms the need for all companies to be vigilant at all times.”

Among the people whose emails the NSA was able to read were Huawei president Ren Zhengfei, Der Spiegel said.

The operation, which Der Spiegel claims was coordinated with the CIA, FBI and White House officials, also netted source codes for Huawei products. One aim was to exploit the fact that Huawei equipment is widely used to route voice and data traffic around the world, according to the report. But the NSA was also concerned that the Chinese government itself might use Huawei’s presence in foreign networks for espionage purposes, it said.

Nation

Galveston Bay oil spill threatens bird migration

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Crews armed with infrared cameras planned to work through the night after a barge carrying nearly a million gallons of especially thick, sticky oil collided with a ship in Galveston Bay, leaking an unknown amount of the fuel into the popular bird habitat as the peak of the migratory shorebird season was approaching.

Booms were brought in to try to contain the spill, which the Coast Guard said was reported at around 12:30 p.m. Saturday by the captain of the 585-foot ship, Summer Wind. Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Kristopher Kidd said the spill hadn't been contained as of 10 p.m., and that the collision was still being investigated.

The ship collided with a barge carrying 924,000 gallons of marine fuel oil, also known as special bunker, that was being towed by the vessel Miss Susan, the Coast Guard said. It didn't give an estimate of how much fuel had spilled into the bay, but there was a visible sheen of oil at the scene.

Officials believe only one of the barge's tanks was breached, but that tank had a capacity of 168,000 gallons.

"A large amount of that has been discharged," Kidd said. He said a plan was being developed to remove the remaining oil from the barge, but the removal had not begun.

The barge was resting on the bottom of the channel, with part of it submerged. He said boom was being set up in the water to protect environmentally-sensitive areas and that people would be working through the night with infrared cameras to locate and skim the oil.

The barge was being towed from Texas City to Bolivar at the time. The Coast Guard said that Kirby Inland Marine, which owns the tow vessel and barge, was working with it and the



In this image provided by the U.S. Coast Guard a barge loaded with marine fuel oil sits partially submerged in the Houston Ship Channel, Saturday March 22, 2014.

Texas General Land Office at the scene.

The Coast Guard said six crew members from the tow vessel were in stable condition, but it offered no details about their injuries.

Jim Suydam, spokesman for the General Land Office, described the type of oil the barge was carrying as "sticky, gooey, thick, tarry stuff."

"That stuff is terrible to have to clean up," he said.

Mild weather and calm water seemed to help containment efforts, but stormy weather was forecast for the area on Sunday. Suydam said almost every private cleanup outfit in the area was out there helping out under the coordination of the Coast Guard and General Land Office.

Bruce Clawson, the director of the Texas City Homeland Se-

VP Biden calls on Congress to pass gay rights bill

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden called on Congress Saturday to pass a measure to outlaw workplace discrimination against gays, saying it's outrageous that the country is even debating the subject.

Speaking to supporters of the gay advocacy group Human Rights Campaign on Saturday, Biden said it's "close to barbaric" that in some states, employees can be fired because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Imagine 20 years from now as America looked back and say 'How in the hell can that ever been allowed?' The country's moved on, the American people have moved on," he said.

He said it was time for Con-

gress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act—known as ENDA—which would bar employers with 15 or more workers from using a person's sexual orientation or gender identity as the basis for making employment decisions, including hiring, firing, compensation or promotion. Religious institutions and the military would be exempted.

Biden also criticized Russia's ban on so-called gay "propaganda" and its military actions in Ukrainian territory.

"The great anti-Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov said, 'A country that does not respect the rights of its citizens will not respect the rights of its neighbor.' And we're seeing that today in Ukraine," Biden said.

Bin Laden associates show no remorse in statements

NEW YORK (AP)—In public statements a week apart, al-Qaida's self-professed Sept. 11 mastermind and a Kuwaiti imam who met with Osama bin Laden in a cave soon after the attacks once again demonstrated that time hasn't softened their anti-American views.

If anything, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—in new writings from his Guantanamo Bay cell—and Sulaiman Abu Ghaith—on trial in Manhattan federal court—are using courtroom theater, intentionally or not, to press their case that the United States is such a bully in the Middle East that even killing civilians was justified.

"The entire trial is frozen in time if you think about it," said Karen J. Greenberg, the direc-

tor of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law who was one of the few people in the Manhattan courtroom Thursday when the surprise announcement was made that Abu Ghaith would testify. "Because the trial is focused on the moment of 9/11, it makes everybody seem like they're frozen in the time of 9/11."

Mohammed's words emerged a week ago in a written statement responding to more than 400 questions from defense lawyers in their failed bid to win the court's permission to have him testify on behalf of Abu Ghaith, who is on trial on charges that he conspired to kill Americans and aid al-Qaida after the terrorist attacks.

Mohammed, who was cap-

tured in Pakistan in 2003, boasted that Afghanistan under Taliban leadership "was the first Islamic state that treated all Muslim men equally, whether they be Chinese, Indian, Chechnyan, Arabs, or Westerners." There was no mention of women.

He claimed the U.S. closed some embassies and canceled some joint military maneuvers in Jordan because of publicity he orchestrated while in charge of al-Qaida's media wing, including the release of some clips from bin Laden speeches, the publication of a video called "Destroying the Destroyer" and the appearance of pictures of al-Qaida military training camps.

"All this was not in vain because, while the enemy has ca-

curity, told The Daily News in Galveston that the barge sank, but that there is no danger to the community, which is about 40 miles southeast of downtown Houston. Suydam said he could not confirm whether the barge sank.

Tara Kilgore, an operations coordinator with Kirby Inland Marine, declined to comment Saturday.

On its Facebook page, Texas City Emergency Management said the dike and all parks on the water are closed until further notice. And the Coast Guard said that part of the Houston ship channel was closed to traffic.

Richard Gibbons, the conservation director of the Houston Audubon Society, said there is very important shorebird habitat on both sides of the Houston ship channel.

Audubon has the internationally-recognized Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary just to the east, which Gibbons said attracts 50,000 to 70,000 shorebirds to shallow mud flats that are perfect foraging habitat.

Search for survivors continues in Wash. mudslide

SEATTLE (AP)—Rescue crews searched into the night for survivors from a massive mudslide in Washington state that killed at least three people, after hearing voices from the debris field pleading for help.

The slide of mud, trees and rocks happened about 11 a.m. Saturday morning. Several people—including an infant—were critically injured and at least six houses were destroyed.

Snohomish County Fire District 21 Chief Travis Hots said at a news briefing late Saturday that searchers weren't giving up on finding more people.

"We have people who are yelling for our help, and we are going to take extreme risks," Hots said.

It wasn't clear how many people might still be alive, he said.

"This is still a rescue mission until we determine otherwise," Hots said.

The slide also blocked the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River, which prompted an evacuation notice because water was rising rapidly behind the debris. Authorities worried about severe downstream flooding if water suddenly broke through the blockage.

The landslide also completely covered State Route 530 near the town of Oso, about 55 miles north of Seattle. It was at least 135 feet wide and 180 feet deep and hit just before 11 a.m., Snohomish County authorities said.

The Snohomish County sher-

iff's office reported that two people had been killed at the scene. Authorities later said one of the people who was rescued died at a hospital.

The injured included a 6-month-old boy, who was in critical condition at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

Hospital spokeswoman Susan Gregg said two other victims were in critical condition—an 81-year-old man and a 58-year-old man—while a 37-year-old man was in serious condition. Gregg said Harborview had one other male patient from the landslide, but no information on his condition was available.

Five of the injured were brought to Cascade Valley Hospital in Arlington, and one

has already been treated and released, said hospital spokeswoman Jennifer Egger. She didn't know the condition of the others.

The American Red Cross has set up at the hospital, and an evacuation shelter was created at Post Middle School in Arlington.

One eyewitness told the Daily Herald that he was driving on the roadway and had to quickly brake to avoid the mudslide.

"I just saw the darkness coming across the road. Everything was gone in three seconds," Paulo Falcao told the newspaper.

Search-and-rescue help came from around the region, plus the Washington State Patrol and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Asia

Malaysian plane mystery bewilders, frustrates

By JOAN LOWY and JUSTIN

PRITCHARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solving the mystery of the missing Malaysian plane is proving to be as easy as cracking a homicide without a body.

Or a witness.

Or a motive.

All while billions of people are waiting for the kind of quick and clear resolution that we've come to expect in the information age—and speculating in sometimes wild ways when that resolution doesn't come.

Eleven days after Flight 370 took a sudden, and still unexplained, left turn over the waters between Malaysia and Vietnam, a sense of bewilderment and frustration has settled in among not just the family members of the 239 passengers and crew, but also within the worldwide avia-

tion community.

"I don't think anybody has a good idea what happened or where to look," said Jim Hall, who as a former U.S. National Transportation Safety Board chairman saw the inner workings of dozens of crash investigations.

Indeed, there have been more false leads than verifiable facts.

Chinese satellite images showed plane debris—except they didn't. A Greek tanker found floating suitcases—not actually.

Even some basic understandings change depending on the day.

What started as a relatively confined search of the South China Sea shifted hundreds of miles west to entirely different waters in the Strait of Malacca, and ultimately to an area the size of Australia. The areas were targeted first because that is where

the plane lost contact with air traffic control, then because of records from military radar and finally because of digital "handshakes" between a satellite and an on-board text messaging system.

Fundamental questions remain unanswered.

If the plane was commandeered by the pilots or hijackers, as investigators from Malaysia and other nations aiding the search have concluded—why?

During as many as seven hours after two key systems the Boeing 777 used to communicate with the outside world went dark, what happened to the passengers—were they incapacitated or killed? Sleeping? Panicked by the realization that something was terribly wrong?

And where is the plane—along a northern arc that stretches into the steppes of Central Asia,



Relatives of Chinese passengers aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines, flight MH370, turn to journalists to shout their demands for answers after Malaysian government representatives left a briefing in Beijing, China, Saturday, March 22, 2014.

or an opposite arc that sweeps down into the southern reaches of the Indian Ocean? Or, possibly, neither?

"Something that's troubling to a lot of people like myself who are looking at it is the facts of the situation really don't add up," said John Gadzinski, a Boeing 737 captain and avia-

tion safety consultant.

Like everyone else, Gadzinski has question after question, with no way of knowing the answers. For starters, why were both the transponder signal, which identifies the plane to civilian radar and provides information like altitude, and the information portion of

the plane's messaging system turned off? It must have been deliberate, but was it done to troubleshoot a problem on board—or to disappear?

Foreign governments continue to offer Malaysia help, and hope the small Southeast Asian nation accepts, but get very mixed results.

More planes join ocean hunt for missing jetliner

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—More planes joined the search Sunday of a remote patch of the southern Indian Ocean in hopes of finding answers to the fate of the missing Malaysia Airlines jet, after China released a satellite image showing a large object floating in the search zone.

The desolate area in the Indian Ocean is about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) southwest

of Perth, Australia, where three days of searching for similar images from another satellite that emerged earlier in the week have produced no results.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which is coordinating the operation from the country's western coast, said it refined the search based on the latest clue from the Chinese satellite showing an object that appeared to be 22 meters (72 feet)

by 13 meters (43 feet). It said the object's position also fell within Saturday's search area but it had not been sighted.

Sunday's search involving eight aircraft has been split into two areas within the same proximity covering 59,000 square kilometers (22,800 square miles). These areas have been determined by drift modelling, the AMSA said.

Despite the frustrating lack of answers, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott was upbeat.

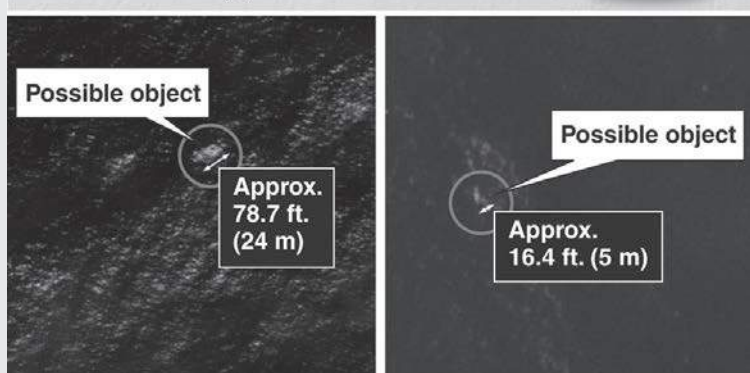
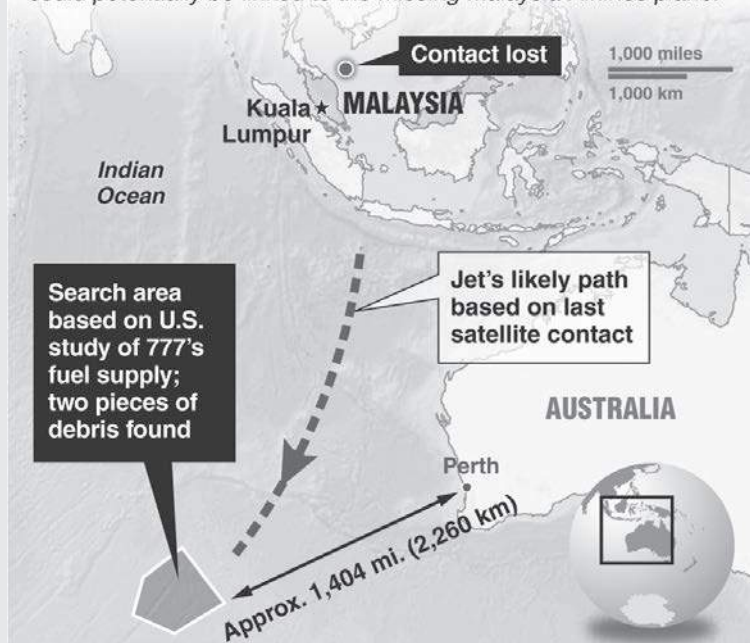
"Obviously we have now had a number of very credible leads and there is increasing hope - no more than hope, no more than hope - that we might be on the road to discovering what did happen to this ill-fated aircraft," Abbott told reporters in Papua New Guinea.

Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein put a message on his Twitter account Sunday asking those in churches around the country to offer a "prayer please" for the passengers and crew on Flight 370.

More than 300 Malaysian cycling enthusiasts rode their bikes to the Kuala Lumpur airport to remember the people onboard the jet. The cyclists decorated the bikes with small Malaysian flags and stickers that read "Pray for MH370."

Possible plane debris spotted

Australia is investigating two objects seen on satellite images that could potentially be linked to the missing Malaysia Airlines plane.



Source: Australian Maritime Safety Authority, ESRI, BBC
Graphic: Melina Yingling

© 2014 MCT

PH arrests Communist Party chairman, wife

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine security forces arrested the chairman of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines and his wife on Saturday, the military said, dealing the biggest blow in years to the decades-old rebel group.

Benito Tiamzon and his wife, Wilma, also a senior party officer, were arrested in central Cebu province's Aloguinsan township, said military Chief of Staff Gen. Emmanuel Bautista.

The arrests came a week before the party's armed wing, the New People's Army, was to mark its 45th anniversary.

The couple face charges of crimes against humanity, including multiple murders, Bautista said in a statement late Saturday. They were taken to a military camp in Cebu.

The statement provided no other details about the arrests. Local media reports said that five other people were arrested along with the Tiamzons.

Bautista said the arrests were "another victory for the combined efforts" of the military and police.

"We call on to the rest of the CPP-NPA members to lay down their arms, abandon the armed struggle and return to the comfort of their families and join us in bringing peace and development to our nation," he said.

Tiamzon's wife, the party's secretary-general, was arrested in the early 1990s but escaped from custody.

Many other senior Communist Party leaders have also been killed or captured over the years, including some whom the rebels said were consultants in peace negotiations who were

supposed to be immune from arrest while talks were ongoing.

Talks to end one of Asia's longest-running Marxist insurgencies collapsed in 2011 due to disagreements between the two sides over releasing several jailed rebel leaders.

In a statement from the Dutch city of Utrecht where he lives in exile, chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni condemned the arrests, saying that the Tiamzons carry government-acknowledged safe conduct passes as "consultants" in the peace talks.

He said Tiamzons "have fulfilled and are fulfilling highly significant tasks in the peace ne-

gotiations" and demanded their immediate release.

The military estimates that the guerrilla fighters number about 4,000, down from a peak of about 25,000 in the mid-1980s due to battle losses, surrenders and factionalism.

The party and its armed wing have also been included on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations.

Earlier this month, the rebels launched a series of attacks in southern Davao del Sur province's Matanao township, killing 10 government troops. At least two guerrillas were killed and nine captured, according to officials.

NKorea fires short-range rockets for 2nd day

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea launched short-range rockets into the sea off its east coast for a second straight day on Sunday—16 this time, according to South Korean officials, in what's believed to be Pyongyang's way of protesting U.S.-South Korean military drills.

The rockets flew about 60 kilometers (37 miles) early Sunday morning, said Col. Eom Hyo-sik, an official with South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. That's about the same range as the 30 rockets the North fired early Saturday. South Korea believes the North fired FROG rockets, which are unguided, old Soviet-developed missiles that Pyongyang has had since the 1960s.

Pyongyang claims its rocket launches are part of routine drills and self-defensive in nature, but there have been an unusual number this year—March has seen five launches

so far—coinciding with annual, routine war drills by Washington and Seoul that North Korea claims are invasion preparation. Analysts say the impoverished North chafes against the annual drills because it has to spend precious resources responding with its own exercises.

A week ago, North Korea launched 25 rockets with a range of about 70 kilometers (44 miles), South Korea said, and earlier this month a North Korean artillery launch happened minutes before a Chinese commercial plane reportedly carrying 202 people flew in the same area.

The Korean Peninsula remains officially at war because the Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the U.S., South Korea and Japan are set to meet and discuss North Korea in the Netherlands next week while attending a nuclear security summit.

World

Pro-Russian forces storm Ukrainian base in Crimea

BELBEK AIR BASE, Crimea (AP)—Ukraine's armed forces took what may prove to be one of their final stands Saturday in Crimea, as pro-Russian forces stormed and seized control of an air force base amid a barrage of gunfire and explosions.

A tense blockade of the Belbek air base base that has endured for more than a week looked set for an inevitable culmination following the seizure of one Ukrainian-held military facility after another in recent days.

It was the last major Ukrainian military facility in Crimea to fall into the hands of pro-Russian forces. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry hasn't provided details of how many bases it still controls on the peninsula.

Crimea residents voted last week to secede from Ukraine and join Russia - a process that was formalized this week with the blessing of President Vladimir Putin. The vote, which was held under condition akin to martial law under the gaze of apparently Moscow-led militia forces, has been rejected as illegitimate by the international community.

The assault on the Belbek base mirrored events at other Ukrainian-held military facilities on the peninsula in recent days.

In footage provided by the Ukrainian Defense ministry, a Russian-made BTR-80 armored personnel carrier could be seen smashing open a front gate at Belbek, a base across the bay from the port city of Sevastopol.

APCs crashed through walls at two other locations and were followed by armed personnel, who advanced in crouching position as they secured the area. Four BTR-80s were involved in the assault, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukrainian troops offered no resistance. Later, a separate motley group arrived at the scene. The crowd appeared to be made up of professional soldiers,



A Pro-Russian militia member guards outside the Belbek airbase after Russian troops took control over it, outside Sevastopol, Crimea, on Saturday, March 22, 2014.

Ukraine air force couple weds at besieged base

BELBEK AIR BASE, Crimea (AP)—As pro-Russian forces surrounded a Ukrainian-held air force base in Crimea, two lieutenants stood side-by-side and tied the knot.

The couple completed their wedding vows Saturday under the gaze of Belbek base commander Col. Yuliy Mam-

chur, who has been hailed in Ukraine for his refusal to yield to numerically superior pro-Russian forces.

As medic Galina Volosyanchik and communications officer Ivan Benera were being handed a gift and bouquet of flowers, Mamchur said: "You will always remember this, the whole world is here watching."

As Volosyanchik held her flowers, she wiped away tears. Colleagues then drank champagne and shared toasts.

Hours later, armed pro-Russian forces smashed into and took control of Belbek base, which had been the last major military facility to remain under Ukrainian control in the peninsula.

members of a recently-formed militia unit and Cossacks.

The cause of the explosions wasn't immediately clear, although Ukrainian officials said they were stun grenades used to disperse any potential resistance.

Two ambulances arrived and then departed shortly after. Ukraine's Defense Ministry said one reporter and a Ukrainian soldier were injured in the raid.

After the takeover, Belbek base commander Col. Yuliy Mamchur called together his men, who sang the Ukrainian national anthem and then stood at ease. He then told his men to put their weapons in the base's armory.

A few hours before, Mamchur attended a wedding between two lieutenants serving at Belbek. Soldiers drank champagne and toasted the couple, despite the looming threat of a raid on the base.

Earlier, a crowd stormed the Novofedorivka base, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of Crimea's capital, Simferopol, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said.

Ukrainian television station TSN said troops inside the base hurled smoke grenades in an attempt to disperse groups of burly young men attempting to break through the front gates.

There were conflicting re-

ports about whether the base was eventually taken over.

The Russian Defense Ministry says that as of late Friday, less than 2,000 of 18,000 Ukrainian servicemen in Crimea had "expressed a desire to leave for Ukraine." The ministry, how-

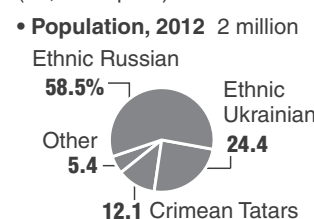


Crimea votes to join Russia

The U.S. and its European allies are expected to announce sanctions against Russia after Crimea voted, by a nearly 97 percent margin, in support of leaving Ukraine and becoming a Russian province.

At a glance

- **Status** Autonomous republic within Ukraine
- **Size** 10,077 sq. mi. (26,100 sq. km)
- **Population, 2012** 2 million



- **Language** 77 percent speak Russian as native language
- **Main industries** Tourism, agriculture, mining; Russian Black Sea Fleet stationed at Sevastopol

Source: BBC, Reuters
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2014 MCT

History in brief

- **1443** After centuries under Greek and Roman influence, became the center of a Tatar Khanate, then part of the Ottoman Empire
- **Mid-18th century** Falls under Russian influence
- **1853-1856** Crimean War - Britain and France try to limit Russian influence in the region
- **1917** Becomes autonomous republic within Russia after the Bolshevik revolution
- **1940s** Occupied by Germany during World War II; Stalin deports Tatars accusing them of collaboration; many perish
- **1954** Transferred to Ukraine
- **2014** Votes to join Russian Federation

ever, stopped short of saying the remainder of the troops would serve in the Russian army.

No similar information has been forthcoming from Ukraine's authorities, who have

been criticized by servicemen marooned in Crimea, some of whom have complained to media that they have been given no clear instructions on what they should be doing.

3 Palestinians killed in clash with Israeli army

JENIN, West Bank (AP)—Israeli troops killed three Palestinians in an early morning raid that was followed by a clash with angry protesters in a West Bank town on Saturday, the military and Palestinian security officials said, in the deadliest incident in months.

The violence came amid a recent spike in clashes in the West Bank that could complicate the already troubled peace efforts as the sides near an April deadline set under U.S.-sponsored talks.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' office condemned the violence, calling it "part of an Israeli policy that aims to destroy everything," and asked the American administration to intervene to save the peace talks.

Saturday's incident started with an Israeli raid, which the military said aimed to arrest Hamza Abu el-Heija, a 22-year-old Hamas operative wanted for involvement in shooting and bombing attacks against Israelis.

Lt. Col. Peter Lerner described el-Heija as a "ticking bomb" and said he was wanted

for months and was allegedly in the final stages of planning a major shooting attack against Israelis.

Palestinians officials said the military ringed the house in the Jenin refugee camp overnight and ordered el-Heija outside. When he refused to come out, the soldiers stormed the building and a shootout ensued.

Lerner said everyone but el-Heija had left the building before the shootout. The military says el-Heija first shot an attack dog that was sent inside and then opened fire on the troops outside, wounding two soldiers. When he attempted to escape while still shooting at the Israelis, the troops returned fire and killed him, Lerner said.

Within minutes, hundreds of angry residents and gunmen gathered and attacked the soldiers. The troops opened fire and killed two Palestinians and wounded several more, he said. The military initially said three Palestinians were killed in the shootout but later corrected and revised the number.

El-Heija was the son of Hamas leader Jamal el-Heija, one of the longest serving prisoners being held in Israel. From his prison cell, the father praised his son's "heroism" and "blessed his confrontation with occupation forces until his last bullet," adding that he prayed in prison for his martyrdom.

The three main Palestinian militant groups, linked to Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Abbas' Fatah, issued a joint statement warning of retribution against Israel and the Palestinian leadership for allegedly cooperating with it.

"The resistance in the West Bank is alive and won't die, and the Zionist enemy can't guess from where the resistance will attack. The blood of Jenin Martyrs won't go in vain," the groups said.

The Palestinian Authority bears "equal responsibility" along with Israel for the violence in Jenin, they said, adding that "our people won't forgive the Palestinian security apparatuses for this crime."

WORLD BRIEFS

3 more deaths in Venezuela as both sides march

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Three more people died from Venezuela's political unrest as both supporters and opponents of President Nicolas Maduro took to the streets in new shows of force Saturday. A man identified as Jesus Orlando Labrador was killed by a gunshot in the chest Saturday in the southwestern city of Merida, Mayor Carlos Garcia told The Associated Press. He said it happened when a suspected group of hard-line government supporters began shooting at anti-Maduro activists after a peaceful protest march. Another victim, Argenis Hernandez, was shot in the stomach Friday by an angry motorist as he and other protesters manned a barricade on a highway outside Valencia, Venezuela's third-largest city and a major focal point of protests against Maduro. He died at a hospital before dawn Saturday, local officials said.

President says Pope Francis to visit Nigeria

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's president says Pope Francis is promising to visit Africa's most populous nation. A statement from Goodluck Jonathan's office doesn't give any timing for the visit proposed when Jonathan met the Roman Catholic leader at the Vatican on Saturday. It says they discussed poverty alleviation and inter-faith dialogue. Nigeria's population is divided almost equally between Muslims and Christians who periodically clash in deadly confrontations. Catholics make up about a quarter of Christians, an estimated 21 million Nigerians. Many Christians belong to evangelical churches that have been winning converts from traditional churches. Pope Francis has committed to travel to the Holy Land and South Korea in 2014 and said he wants to visit the Philippines and Sri Lanka in coming years. His predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, visited Africa twice.

Health & Fitness

Busy day to 'organized chaos' after Boston bombing

By RIK STEVENS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—From inside the cinder block walls of the emergency department at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, with just 10 rooms total, it was hard to tell that April 15 had gone from simply a normal day to a moment that would rivet the world's attention on Boston and its famous marathon.

But when a woman arrived in a silent daze, shrapnel and debris embedded in her head and neck, the scope of what transpired became apparent to the doctors and nurses on duty that day.

"My 'Oh, my god' moment was when the first patient came into the emergency department," Maureen Martinez, nursing manager at Mass Eye and Ear, said Wednesday night at a forum at the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord.

"She was a young woman. She walked in and was pretty stunned. She couldn't say anything, she was alone. You could just really see what she went through. You could see the impact of the blast and I've never seen that in my experience. It just became real to me."

Three people died and 260 were injured that day when two



Sneakers hang on gate in memory of the Boston Marathon bombing in Boston, Massachusetts.

BOSTON HERALD/MCT

homemade bombs exploded near the finish line on Boylston Street. One suspect is awaiting trial in the bombings; another

died during a police pursuit.

At Mass Eye and Ear, like the other hospitals in Boston, first word of the bombings came over

the radio. Normally, the emergency radio squawks twice a day as a test. "Roger, test," is the usual response.

"I went to the radio and realized that all I could hear was 'multiple victims' and I realized that this was definitely not a drill," said Deb Trocchi, a registered nurse at the hospital.

Soon, dozens of patients would arrive, carefully sorted at

the scene and sent to Mass Eye and Ear with head, neck, eye and ear injuries. Mostly, they saw ruptured eardrums and injuries caused by the blasts' concussion. There were also eye injuries from shards of glass and shrapnel. It was a far cry from the unstoppable nosebleeds, throat infections - even a chicken bone stuck in the throat - that can mark the passage of a day in the emer-

gency room.

And as they were treating the patients who came through their doors, the doctors and nurses had to stay focused.

"Like a lot of others, my first thought was 'Where is my friend Kyle who is running? Where is my sister who is eight months pregnant and lives two blocks from the finish line?'" said Dr. Aaron Remenschneider. "We tend to forget now that in the aftermath, things were very much unclear."

"Trying to make sense of it all was very difficult," Remenschneider said. "There was a lot of fear. But we can't really worry about that, that's not our job. Our job is to take care of the patients."

Some worked around the clock that Monday and the week, in Martinez's words, became a blur. Beyond the medical challenges, there were the quirks: The hospital being locked down twice, the FBI agents collecting debris.

"I'd call it organized chaos," said Trocchi. "You have experience that prepares you for things like this. It's what we do."

As a research hospital, Mass Eye and Ear is using what they learn from this group of patients to try to better treat others who experience bombings.

"The victims of that day have been so empowering and so willing to share their stories and take part in the research," said Remenschneider. "I have been so impressed at their willingness to help a broader community."

Report: Labor in tub OK but water births unproven

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sitting in a tub of warm water can relieve a mom-to-be's pain during the early stages of labor, but actually giving birth under water has no proven benefit and may be risky, say recommendations for the nation's obstetricians.

There's no count of how many babies in the U.S. are delivered in water, but it is increasingly common for hospitals to offer birthing pools or tubs to help pregnant women relax during labor.

In a report released Thursday, a distinction is made between the two uses, saying that early on immersion may be helpful, as long as some basic precautions are taken.

But there has been little scientific study of underwater delivery, along with a handful of reports over the past decade or so of near-drownings and other risks to the infant, said the joint opinion from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American

Academy of Pediatrics.

Although complications appear to be rare, the report urges that underwater deliveries be performed only in research studies to settle the questions.

"Laboring in water is not the same as delivering under water," said co-author Dr. Jeffrey Ecker of Harvard University, adding that he's cared for numerous women comforted by immersion during labor.

As for delivery, "We want people to do more research," added ACOG committee member Dr. Aaron Caughey of Oregon Health & Science University.

In fact, midwives at Caughey's hospital perform several dozen underwater deliveries a year and are collecting data on how mothers and babies fare, said Cathy Emeis, a certified nurse-midwife at the Oregon university. She cautioned that the numbers are small but so far don't show increased risks.

Pregnant women interested in a water birth at the Oregon facility are required to take a special class and sign a consent form, Emeis said.

"We always acknowledge to our patients that there is not a lot of high-quality evidence that shows there's a benefit to birthing under water," she said.

Thursday's recommendations aren't binding. Birthing in warm water, which proponents say simulates the uterine environment, has been an option for several decades, although more women use it for early labor than delivery, said Tina Johnson of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

"I don't know that this statement will necessarily change women's desire for that option," said Johnson, whose organization is drafting its own guidelines.

The report recommends that hospitals or birth centers choose low-risk candidates for immersion during labor, keep tubs clean, monitor women appropriately and be able to move them out of the water quickly if a problem occurs.

It says potential risks of underwater delivery include infection, difficulty regulating the baby's body temperature and respiratory distress if the baby inhales water.

Personal Trainer

To become a better swimmer

Some recommendations that can help swimmers, from novice to veteran, swim better:



Swim often

It is difficult to improve without swimming about three times a week; three or four short workouts are better than one or two long ones

Use good technique

Use what you know about good swimming style whether you are swimming fast or slowly



free
six kick switch
free
fingertip drag
breast
3 up, 3 down

Do drills every time

Swim coaches, books and web resources can teach you some useful drills

Push hard sometimes

About once a week, swim hard for a few minutes to learn what full exertion feels like



Stay streamlined

Keep your body streamlined during starts and turns

Source:
"Your Guide to Swimming"
by Mat Luebbers
Graphic: Helen
Lee McComas,
Paul Trap
© 2014 MCT

Ask someone to watch

This is the best kind of feedback, especially if he or she videos you



Life & Style

Firing of officer who shared Rihanna photo upheld



Rihanna

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A police officer who distributed an evidence photo depicting Rihanna's injuries after she was attacked by Chris

Brown was properly fired for her actions, a judge ruled Thursday.

Former Los Angeles police officer Rebecca Reyes took a picture of an evidence photo and the image ended up on celebrity website TMZ, although she denies that she sent it to the site.

Reyes snapped the photo to show to other officers and acquaintances, court filings state.

The image was one of several taken by police officers investigating Brown's February 2009 attack on Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Fenty.

Superior Court Judge Luis A. Lavin issued a ruling agreeing with the decisions of a disciplinary panel and Police Chief Charlie Beck to fire Reyes in 2012. After reviewing the record, Lavin also concluded that evidence supports that Reyes "participated in the release of the photography showing Ms. Fenty's injuries to TMZ."

The judge said he agreed that Reyes should no longer be a police officer.

"At a minimum, the public is entitled to protection from unprofessional employees whose conduct places people at risk of

injury and the government at risk of incurring liability," Lavin's ruling.

Reyes' attorney Ira Salzman accepted the ruling without argument during a brief hearing Thursday. He said after the hearing that he was disappointed by the ruling and reiterated that his client did not leak the image to TMZ. He disagreed with Lavin's descriptions of his client as unprofessional, saying she "made a

singular mistake."

"Rebecca Reyes is an outstanding person and was an outstanding officer," he said.

Reyes had been an officer for 10 years before she was fired. In the hours after the Rihanna attack, Reyes was assigned to a team planning to arrest Brown but was pulled off the assignment. She saw an evidence photo of Rihanna's injuries at her precinct and snapped a photo

to share with others, including a former girlfriend who records show called TMZ.

The ex-girlfriend, also a Los Angeles police officer, told investigators she called the celebri-

ty news site only to verify details of the attack that Reyes shared with her.

Plotter in Calif. killing that led to TV show dies

CORCORAN, Calif. (AP)—A man who masterminded the 1985 murder of his wife in a plot that inspired two books and a TV miniseries has died in a central California prison hospital.

David Brown died of natural causes in a prison hospital Thursday. He was 61, said Anthony Bear, a prison spokesman.

Brown was in a protective housing unit because of his notoriety for the killing of his fifth wife, Linda Brown, as she slept.

He was accused of persuading two teenagers—one his daughter, the other his sister-in-law and se-

cret lover—to kill his wife. The computer businessman went on to collect \$835,000 from the victim's insurance, including several policies started just months before her death.

Prosecutors said Brown coerced his daughter, Cinnamon, to take the blame. Cinnamon was 14 when she confessed to shooting Linda Brown. She spent seven years in a California Youth Authority detention facility before being paroled.

In 1988, Cinnamon cooperated with investigators after she became fed up with her fa-

ther's luxurious lifestyle while she was imprisoned.

Brown paid \$350,000 in cash for a house within five months of the killing. The night of the murder, Linda Brown was sleeping in a rented home in Orange County. She was shot twice at close range.

Brown told police he had left home earlier because of bickering between his daughter and his wife.

Brown was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 1990.

Jesus' 'Crown of Thorns' shown at Notre Dame



A crown of thorns which was believed to have been worn by Jesus Christ and which was bought by King Louis IX in 1239 is presented at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Friday March 21, 2014.

PARIS (AP)—An ancient relic that many Christians revere as Jesus Christ's "Crown of Thorns" has made a special public appearance at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

The crown—a circular band of branches encased in a gilded, golden tube—is being displayed for three days to mark the 800th anniversary of the birthday and christening of King Louis IX of France, who

acquired it in 1239.

The relic was first mentioned by Jerusalem pilgrims in the 5th century and was transferred to Constantinople in the 10th century.

The artifact has appeared in special ceremonies a handful of times in the last hundred years: in 1997, and in 1939 on the eve of World War II, to celebrate seven centuries since it came to France.

Fergie launches training to help abused women

WASHINGTON (AP)—Songstress Fergie says the number of women who are abused by their partners "is totally unacceptable" and should be protected by existing laws that are often not enforced.

The Black Eyed Peas singer was at the State Department on Thursday to announce a new Justice Institute on Gender-Based Violence initiative to launch training programs in India, Nepal, South Africa and Mexico.

The training will bring together law enforcement, service providers and advocacy groups to ensure that abused



Fergie

women can rely on laws that too often are not understood by local authorities or ignored.

Avon Products Inc. is funding the four training centers for \$650,000. Fergie is a global ambassador for the Avon Foundation for Women.

One in three women worldwide will be abused by their partners during their lives.



Graduated to Heaven

†Mario de Guia Ajoste

Lovingly known as "Super Mario" or "Tatay"

Born to eternal life on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 7:20 a.m. at the Commonwealth Health Center.

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Wife: Leonarda Rosal Aranda Ajoste

Father: Nazario Barrientos Ajoste

Mother: Candida de Guia Ajoste

Brothers & Sister:

Augustin de Guia Ajoste (Alberta, Canada)

Alejandro de Guia Ajoste (Guam)

Victoria de Guia Ajoste (Iba, Zambales)

Manuel Ajoste (Saipan)

He Will Live Forever In The Hearts of His:

Children: Paul Mark Aranda Ajoste

(Johanna and Leon)

Alexander Aranda Ajoste

(Jelyn, Alessandra, Alex Jr.)

Rosalyn Therese Aranda Ajoste

Irene Marie Aranda Ajoste

Caregivers: Sabel Fernandez

Josefino M. Abante (Kuya Joe)

Nightly Memorial Service is being held at the Ajoste residence in Susupe at 7:00pm until Monday, March 24 which will be the final night.

On Saturday, March 22, his remains will be brought to the Ajoste residence for viewing and last respects. All are welcome to visit the family.

On Monday, March 24 at 9:00am, the celebration of his new life service will be at Saipan Community Church. After the service, the convoy will tour Mario's major construction projects for the last time (*Ajoste residence, Nauru Building, Hafadai Hotel, Managaha Pavilions, MIHA Housing & Northern Marianas College*). Burial will follow at the Santuario PAX Memorial Garden in Kagman. Lunch will be served afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, monetary donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

The Family

'How to Poo on a Date' wins odd book-title prize

LONDON (AP)—A guide to coping with an awkward romantic moment has been awarded a prize for the year's oddest book title.

Humorous self-help book "How to Poo on a Date: The Lovers' Guide to Toilet Etiquette" triumphed Friday in the quirky Diagram Prize.

Organizers said the book, published by Prion Press, received 30 percent of votes in an online ballot. It beat other finalists including "Are Trout South African" and "Working Class Cats: The Bodega Cats of New York City."

Prize director Horace Bent said voters had chosen "a manual that can help one through life's more challenging and delicate moments."

The prize, founded in 1978, is run by the British trade magazine The Bookseller.

Previous winners include "Bombproof Your Horse," "Living With Crazy Buttocks" and "Crocheting Adventures with Hyperbolic Planes."

'Noah,' revival of Bible epics, finds rough seas

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In the beginning of their work together on "Noah," director Darren Aronofsky made Russell Crowe a promise: "I'll never shoot you on a houseboat in a robe and sandals with two giraffes popping up behind you."

Decades after Cecil B. DeMille's "The Ten Commandments" and "Ben-Hur," Aronofsky has renewed the tradition of the studio-made, mass-audience Bible epic, albeit as a distinctly darker parable about sin, justice and mercy. While much of his "Noah" is true to Scripture, it's nothing like the picture-book version many encounter as children.

"The first time I read it, I got scared," the director says. "I thought, 'What if I'm not good enough to get on the boat?'"

It's an altogether unlikely project: a \$130 million Bible-based studio film made by a widely respected filmmaker ("Black Swan," "Requiem for a Dream") few would have pegged as a modern-day DeMille. In the lead-up to its March 28th release, "Noah" has been flooded by controversy, with some religious conservatives claiming it isn't literal enough to the Old Testament and that Noah has been inaccurately made, as Aronofsky has called him, "the first environmentalist."

"Noah" is a culmination of the shift brought on by Mel Gibson's independently produced "The Passion of the Christ," which awakened Hollywood with its unforeseen \$612 million box office haul in 2004. In the time since, Hollywood has carefully developed closer ties to faith-based communities, (Sony and 20th Century Fox have set up faith-based studios targeting evangelicals).

Yet the debate about "Noah" proves that it can be tricky to satisfy both believers and non-believers, and that finding the right intersection of art, commerce and religion is a task loaded with as much risk as potential reward.

A lot is at stake, and not just for "Noah" and distributor Paramount Pictures. In December, Fox will release Ridley Scott's "Exodus," starring Christian Bale as Moses.

On the heels of the recently released "Son of God," the religious drama "God's Not Dead" opened Friday and Sony is releasing the less straightforwardly Biblical "Heaven Is for Real" ahead of Easter next month. The studio is also developing a vampire twist on Cain and Able with Will Smith. In Lionsgate's pipeline is a Mary Magdalene film, hyped as a prequel to "The Passion of the Christ" and co-produced by mega-church pastor Joel Osteen.



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Russell Crowe as Noah in a scene from the film, "Noah."

When Jonathan Boch started his company Grace Hill Media in 2000 to consult Hollywood studios on reaching the faith community, the two "really didn't know each other," he says. Since then, films like "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Blind Side" have benefited from outreach to churchgoers.

"Over the course of those 15 years, you've seen the faith community go from almost pariah status or fly-over status to now being seen as an important market," says Boch, who consulted on "Noah." "In my mind, what we're seeing is another renaissance where the greatest artists are telling the greatest stories every told."

Though Hollywood largely swore off the Bible epic when films like 1965's "The Greatest Story Ever Told" flopped, the revival dovetails recent trends. Figures like Noah are globally recognizable, and thus easier to market. They come with no licensing fee, and, often, plenty opportunity for flashy special

effects. "Noah," which is being released in converted 3-D overseas, is perhaps the oldest apocalypse story.

The story fascinated Aronofsky as a Jewish kid growing up in Brooklyn. He recalls a poem he wrote about the tale as a 13-year-old - and a teacher's subsequent encouragement - as his birth as a storyteller. Whereas "The Passion of the Christ" was largely made by Christians and for Christians, Aronofsky says his "Noah" (which was advertised during the Super Bowl) is "for everybody."

"It's wrong when you talk about the Noah story to talk about it in that type of believer-nonbeliever way because I think it's one of humanity's oldest stories," he says. "It belongs not just in the Judeo-Christian-Islamic tradition. Everyone on the planet knows the Noah story."

The Genesis story is only a few pages, with more details on the dimensions of the ark (which Aronofsky held to) than who Noah was. He's instructed by God - "grieved" in his heart by what mankind had become

generations after creation - to build an ark and fill it with two of every animal. After the flood, Noah is referred to as drunk and then banishes his son, Ham - all clues for Aronofsky on the pain of Noah's burden.

Paramount sought the approval of religious leaders, consulting with Biblical scholars in pre-production and doing extensive test screenings (during which Aronofsky and Paramount feuded over the final cut before an apparent truce).

But early criticism bubbled up online based on what Paramount vice chairman Rob Moore says is an old, unused version of the script (which Aronofsky penned with Ari Handel).

"It has been a very interesting journey," says Moore. "It's been highly chronicled along the way, much of which was based upon either speculation or hearsay or old information."

After seeing the film, Jerry A. Johnson, president and CEO of the National Religious Broadcasters, urged Paramount to advertise the film with a disclaimer. Moore acquiesced, adding

a warning that "artistic license has been taken."

"Darren, as an artist, had some sensitivity about what that meant in terms of what we were saying the movie was or wasn't ahead of time, versus letting people experience it for themselves," says Moore. "But there was such a group of people who had concern about it."

"For the vast majority of people, the controversy will go away," he says.

Johnson still has mixed feelings about "Noah," calling it "a great plus, minus": neither worthy of the boycott that Roman Catholics held for Martin Scorsese's "The Last Temptation of Christ," nor a film like "The Passion of the Christ" that will have churches sending busloads to theaters.

"They got the big points of the story right," says Johnson. "It's so counter-cultural today in America or the West to talk about sin, right and wrong, and

particularly the idea of judgment - and that is so serious in this film."

Johnson adds that, among other reservations, "the insertion of the extremist environmental agenda is a problem." Aronofsky disputes that.

"It's in the Bible that we are supposed to tend the garden," the director says. "To say there's no ecological side to the Noah story when Noah is saving the animals just doesn't make sense to me."

Picturehouse founder Bob Berney, who as president of Newmarket Films distributed "The Passion of the Christ," says balancing artistic license and faithfulness to Scripture is challenging.

"It's a kind of a trap, and you have to be very careful," says Berney. "At the same time, they are movies, and they have to be really good. I think the faith-based audience, the Christian audience still wants a big, exciting movie."

\$5M stolen Rembrandt found after 15 years



Rembrandt's painting "Child with a Soap Bubble", stolen in 1999 from the municipal museum of Draguignan in southeastern France, is presented to the press in Nice, southeastern France, Thursday, March 20, 2014.

PARIS (AP)—A stolen Rembrandt masterpiece valued at more than \$5 million has been found in Nice and returned to its rightful owners after 15 years in the wilderness.

The haunting chiaroscuro oil painting, "Child with a Soap Bubble," was raided from the Draguignan Museum in July 1999 by robbers who slipped in through an adjacent library amid celebrations for the Bastille Day holiday.

Authorities recovered the

17th-century work Tuesday inside a Nice home and returned it to curator Jeanine Bussieres Thursday in an emotional ceremony.

"We are thrilled... This Rembrandt was one of our masterpieces. The child in the picture is smiling because he has a soap bubble. But yes, he could be smiling now because he's been returned to us," Bussieres told the AP.

Two suspects have been detained.

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West cover Vogue magazine

NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West's campaign to get fiancée Kim Kardashian on the cover of Vogue magazine has finally paid off. They appear in a photo by Annie Leibovitz on the April issue.

The photo shows Kardashian wearing a white wedding-style dress with West's arms around her. She posted it on her official Twitter and Instagram accounts saying: "This is such a dream come true!!!" West wrote "Thank you (at)voguemagazine" on his Twitter account.

West has said he believed Kardashian is cover-worthy. In a radio interview with Ryan Seacrest last October, he said "there's no way Kim Kardashian shouldn't be on the cover of Vogue." He also said Kardashian was more influential than first lady Michelle Obama in her clothing choices.

However, in the magazine, which hits stands March 31, Vogue editor in chief Anna Wintour told readers it was the



This cover image taken by Annie Leibovitz for Vogue shows the April 2014 issue of the high fashion magazine featuring rapper Kanye West and TV personality Kim Kardashian.

magazine's idea to feature Kardashian, and the decision was based on the reality starlet's dominance - and was not influenced by her famous boyfriend.

"You may have read that Kanye begged me to put his fiancée on Vogue's cover," Wintour wrote. "He did nothing of the sort. The gossip might make for better reading, but the simple fact of the matter is that it isn't true."

The couple are the parents of 9-month-old daughter North.

Actor Chris Hemsworth, wife welcome twin sons



AP
Elsa Pataky, left, and Chris Hemsworth arrive at the Oscars on Sunday, March 2, 2014, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two more Hemsworths have arrived.

Chris Hemsworth and his wife, Elsa Pataky, have welcomed not one, but two sons to the world. The twins of the 30-year-old "Thor: The Dark World" star and the 37-year-old "Fast and Furious 6" actress were born in Los Angeles.

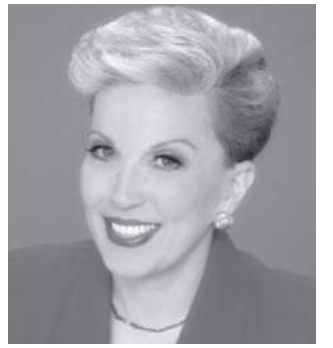
Hemsworth's publicist, Robin Baum, confirmed the births Friday. No additional information has been released.

The babies join the couple's first child, daughter India, who is 22 months old.

The Australian actor told The Associated Press last year that family trumps moviemaking these days. He said he loves the work, but it's certainly not his priority.

Copycat boyfriend gets some growling from his girlfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Caleb," and I have been dating for three years. I'm sure he'll propose within the next few months. I'm having a problem with this because Caleb's best friend, "A.J.," will be proposing to his girlfriend in the next month. They should be able to enjoy their time and let all their friends know.

Caleb has always followed A.J.'s lead. When A.J. buys his girlfriend jewelry, I get jewelry. It makes me feel like an afterthought and that the gifts are not sincere.

If Caleb does propose close to the time that A.J. does, I'm going to say no. I don't want a copycat engagement so my boyfriend can keep up with his best friend. Please advise.

COMING IN SECOND IN NEW YORK

DEAR COMING IN SECOND: You appear to be frustrated because your boyfriend has a recessive personality and is a follower. It is unlikely that he is going to change. Frankly, Caleb doesn't appear to be mature enough to be making decisions with lifelong consequences. You might be much happier with someone who is his own man.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A year and a half ago, my doctor diagnosed me with ADHD. The medication I take is a stimulant and it curbs my appetite. I take it before school and it wears off by mid-afternoon. Because of this, I don't feel hungry at lunchtime.

My teachers and schoolmates have noticed. They try to persuade me to eat, but I tell them I had a big breakfast or I'm just not hungry.

I know they mean well, but I want them to understand that I'm not anorexic. I don't want them to know I have ADHD because some of them make fun of people who do. Do you have any suggestions?

ANONYMOUS IN IOWA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: The principal of your school should be told that you are on doctor-prescribed medication that suppresses your appetite so that information can be shared with the teachers who supervise the cafeteria. That way you will receive less pressure to eat from the adults. Your classmates do not have to know.

If someone accuses you of being anorexic, just say that your doctor has told you your weight is normal. It's a shame they would tease someone who has ADHD because it's a condition that so many students and adults share. However, because you feel it would make you a target, you're wise to say nothing.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is an only son. His mother lives an hour from us. I love her dearly, but when she calls to let us know she's coming to visit on any given Saturday, she won't give us a time of her arrival. She says she "doesn't want to be bound by time" because she runs a lot of errands while she's here.

She doesn't appear to notice the inconvenience to me and my active family, who are bound to our house the entire day, waiting for her to show up. My husband brushes it off, but it frustrates me. How should I handle this in a kindly manner?

STILL WAITING IN TEXAS

DEAR STILL WAITING: The next time your mother-in-law calls, ask her when she plans to be at your house because you have errands to run, too. When she says she doesn't want to be bound by time, ask her to call you on your cellphone and let you know when she's done with her errands and you'll meet her at the house. That way, none of you are tied down or inconvenienced.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Firm downplays problems at L'Wren Scott's company

NEW YORK (AP)—A public relations firm that focuses on the fashion and beauty industries is denying reports that fashion designer L'Wren Scott's company was on the verge of shutting down.

The 49-year-old longtime girlfriend of Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger was

found dead in her Manhattan apartment Monday. Authorities say she committed suicide.

New York-based PR Consulting says in a statement Friday that Scott was considering a restructure of her global business, LS Fashion Ltd.

The firm says that while some areas of the business had not yet

reached their potential, other parts were successful. It says the long-term prospects for the business were encouraging.

Accounts filed by LS Fashion Ltd. in London show the company had liabilities that exceeded assets by 4.24 million euros (\$5.9 million) as of Dec. 31, 2012.

AC/DC's Johnson surprises Billy Joel audience

NEW YORK (AP)—In a rare and unusual mix of rock legends, AC/DC lead singer Brian Johnson made a surprise appearance at Billy Joel's concert at Madison Square Garden and played the metal band's classic, "You Shook Me All Night Long."

Joel introduced Johnson about halfway through the show Friday night, saying Johnson was part of one of the best bands he'd ever seen live. The packed arena erupted when Joel and his band began playing the rock anthem with Johnson on lead vocals.

The show was part of a series

of concerts by Joel at the Garden. He's playing there monthly as an artist-in-residence.

Friday's show included a mix of Joel standards such as "Uptown Girl" and "Big Shot" as well as less-played songs, such as "The Ballad of Billy the Kid."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Aretha Franklin celebrates birthday with Denzel

NEW YORK (AP)—Denzel Washington helped Aretha Franklin celebrate her 72nd birthday in style, and Andre 3000 and Babyface are working on new music for the Queen of Soul. Franklin held an exclusive, small party Saturday in New York City for her birthday, which is on Tuesday. Franklin thanked Washington for attending. Just hours earlier, she saw him on-stage on Broadway in "A Raisin In the Sun." Franklin's longtime musical collaborator Clive Davis also attended her party. Franklin said in an interview that she's working on new music with rap-

per Andre 3000 and singer-songwriter Babyface.

National Geographic series to chronicle the 1990s

NEW YORK (AP)—Nostalgia gets closer and closer to real time. The National Geographic Network says it will air a mini-series this summer on the 1990s. The project premieres this July on the cable network and follows on the heels of National Geographic's success chronicling the 1980s last spring. The network said some 120 people who made some mark on the 1990s have been interviewed, including Matthew Perry of "Friends," actress Susan Sa-

random, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and rock singer Courtney Love. It will examine the Clinton presidency and rise of Osama bin Laden, along with reality television and music ranging from rap to grunge.

Search for old Atari games to go on in New Mexico

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. (AP)—Organizers say a planned dig into a New Mexico landfill for a rumored cache of what some consider the worst Atari video game of all time is expected to proceed despite state environmental regulators' concerns. Fuel Entertainment and LightBox Interactive are

seeking to excavate an old Alamogordo landfill that reportedly was a dumping ground for "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" game cartridges. Jonathan Chinn, an executive producer at Los Angeles-based LightBox, said Thursday that the search hasn't been halted. Chinn says a local waste-management consultant who filed an excavation permit is addressing questions raised by the New Mexico Environmental Department. A department spokesman has said the agency was waiting on a revised waste excavation plan. "E.T." the video game, inspired by the hit 1982 movie, is said to have contributed to Atari's decline.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

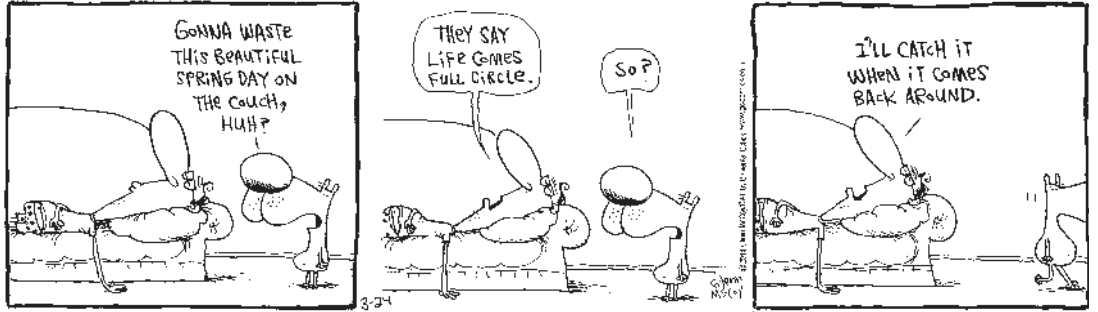


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

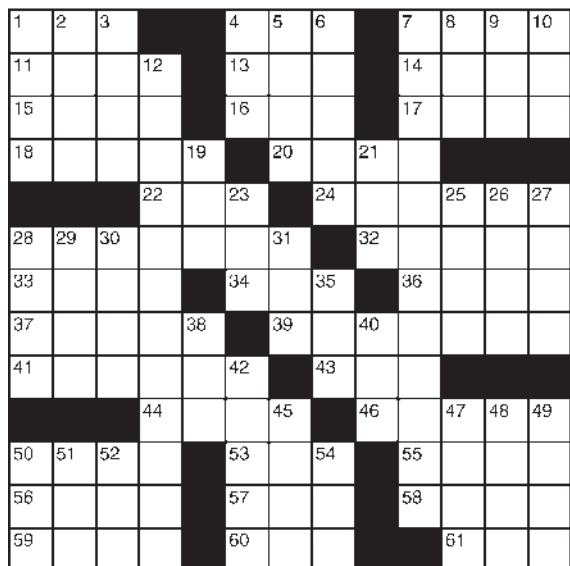
1 NASCAR advertiser
4 Carton
7 Banner
11 Young bovine
13 Gorilla
14 Portrayal
15 Cupid's specialty
16 Pistol
17 Wheel holder
18 Queenly
20 Auto-graph
22 Run-down horse
24 Acid neutralizer
28 Pedestrians' path
32 Bid
33 Everglades bird
34 Squeezing snake
36 Incite
37 Toga alternative
39 Straighten, as the legs
41 Pelted with pebbles
43 Egypt's boy king

DOWN

1 "The Lion King" villain
2 — shanter
3 Stratagem
4 Suitcase
5 Piece of work
6 Ohio city
7 Hot dogs
8 Bagel topper
9 Everybody
10 "Gosh!"
12 Ol' Blue Eyes
19 Legislation
21 Day — paint
23 Talk on and on
25 Roundish coil
26 Stamina, slangily
27 Enrages
28 Intelligence
29 Touch
30 Kitchen flooring, for short
31 Thee
35 Pismire
38 Animation frame
40 Java vessel
42 In a stupor
45 Unaccompanied
47 This way
48 Unrepaired
49 Golf legend Tony
50 Greek consonants
51 Past
52 Bow the head
54 Bullring bravo

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 3-24



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peyton Manning, 38; Alyson Hannigan, 40; Jim Parsons, 41; Louie Anderson, 61.

Happy Birthday: Consideration will have to be taken this year with regard to the people you choose to spend time with professionally and personally. Emotional factors will lead you down the wrong path. You have to separate your feelings from your decisions in order to reach your goals in the simplest, most effective and efficient manner. Make romance a priority. Your numbers are 6, 17, 24, 28, 31, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your skills to the test. Don't get upset over trivial matters. Focus and make every moment count. Speak with confidence and you will get your way in the end. Romance and passion will improve your personal life. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make suggestions based on your past experience. Don't count on others when taking a leadership position will bring higher returns. Express your thoughts and follow through with your plans. Don't depend on others to handle your responsibilities. Follow your instincts and win. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Diligence is key. Do what must be done and ask questions if you don't like the way things are going. Deception is apparent and excess will lead to financial loss or a poor reputation. Focus on being and doing your very best. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Organize and make sure you are fully prepared before you jump into a situation or make

impulsive changes. Emotions will skyrocket if you let the little things get to you. Focus on being creative as well as keeping the peace. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't mess with rules or those in a position of authority. Stick to what you know and be responsible for what you do. It's your ability to get things done that will keep you out of trouble and heading in a positive direction. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Size up each situation you face. Determine your best plan of attack and concentrate on moving ahead until you feel you've reached your goal. Networking will open doors and encourage partnerships. Share your concerns and your intentions. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Avoid criticism by following through with any promises you make or responsibilities you take on. Avoid taking drastic measures if it will upset your domestic scene or an important partnership. Incorporate suggestions from others in order to keep the peace. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Raise your standards. Refuse to let anger get the better of you. Take on and complete whatever task you are given, but focus on the activities, events or endeavors that bring you greater satisfaction and joy. Home improvements will pay off. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have to navigate your way through all the information you are given. Weed out anything that sounds too far-fetched. Sticking

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

to the basics will enable you to reach your destination with the least amount of interference. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Question anyone trying to coerce you into doing something that doesn't feel right. Follow your intuition and make decisions based on what you know, as well as past experience. Emotional manipulation is apparent. Don't overreact. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Set your sights on what you want and go after your goals. A healthy, positive, go-getter attitude will impress some and threaten others. Do your best and don't be afraid to negotiate on your own behalf. Love is on the rise. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Attitude will make the difference when it comes to dealing with touchy subjects. Letting your emotions lead the way will backfire. Take a cautious and controlled approach to anything that has the potential to be unpredictable. *****

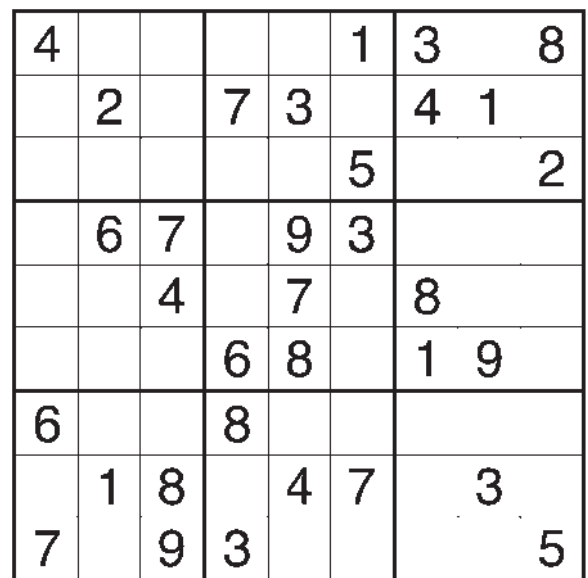
Birthday Baby: You are creative, flexible and insightful. You are unique and passionate.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

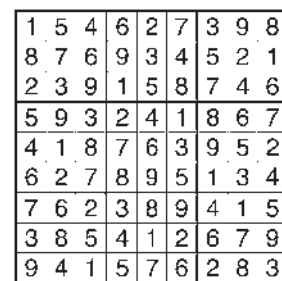


Difficulty Level ★

3/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level *****

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LORDE (MUSICIAN)

Solution: 6 letters



© 2014 Universal Jclick. www.wonderword.com. Join us on Facebook. 3/24
Arts, Auckland, Biting, Bravado, Buzzcut, Club, Cool, Devonport, Down, Electro Pop, Ella, Glory, Gold, Gore, Joel, Lani, Lava, Little, Live, Love, Maria, Mystique, New Zealand, No Better, Poet, Pure Heroine, Read, Republic, Ribs, Sets, Sing, Songs, Souful, Stage, Still Sane, Studio, Team, Teens, Tennis Court, UMG, Views, Vocals, Voice, World, Yelich-O'Connor
Last Friday's Answer: Audition
To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit wonderword.universalclic.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

~~seen scene~~

www.facebook.com/dinghatsgames

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper. Call 235-NEWS

Find today's solution in classified section

76ers' skid hits 24 games with 91-81 loss to Bulls



CHICAGO (AP)—Henry Sims can see the growth and he's not referring to the stack of losses.

The Philadelphia 76ers' skid continued and so did their march toward the wrong kind of record.

They have dropped 24 straight after losing 91-81 to the Chicago Bulls on Saturday. But Sims can at least see some positives.

"We're learning to play better with each other," he said. "We're learning to make better decisions down the stretch. We're growing right now, and that's the main focus right now. The games we have left, we want to keep growing."

They wouldn't mind stopping the losing streak, either, but the Bulls weren't about to let that happen.

Joakim Noah finished with 20 points, Jimmy Butler scored 17, and Chicago handed the 76ers yet another loss to put them within two of the NBA record.

The Sixers moved ahead of the Vancouver Grizzlies (1995-96), Denver Nuggets (1997-98) and Charlotte Bobcats (2011-12) for the second-longest, single-season losing streak.

The Cleveland Cavaliers dropped 26 during the 2010-11 season, and Philadelphia would have to pull off an upset to avoid tying that.

The next two games are at San Antonio and Houston. Drop them, and the Sixers could set the record at home against Detroit on March 29, particularly if they continue to shoot like this from the outside.

They missed their first 18 3-pointers and were threatening a league record before Byron Mullens made one early in the fourth. They wound up going 1 for 20. The mark for most 3-point attempts in a game without a conversion is 15.

"We were 1 for 20—what do you say?" coach Brett Brown asked. "It's going to be hard. I thought our defense was really quite good. It's always going to be hard if you can't make perimeter shots. This group has struggled doing that, and so, finding wins and finding ways to stay in games is always going to be a challenge."

Despite that, they hung in until Taj Gibson buried a jumper and D.J. Augustin nailed a 3 with 2:30 remaining. That made it 91-79 and sealed the win for the Bulls, who moved into a tie for third in the Eastern Conference with Toronto.

Noah and Butler each had eight rebounds, with Butler dishing out six assists. Gibson came on strong in the fourth quarter to finish with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Augustin added 16 points and six assists, and the Bulls came away with the win after losing at Indiana the previous night.

"It's tough," he said. "(The 76ers) come out and they have

nothing to lose. Basically, they just come out shooting whenever they feel and some of those shots go in. It's hard for anybody to play against a team that's losing, but they're still a good team at the same time."

Thaddeus Young scored 28 for Philadelphia despite missing seven 3-pointers. Sims added 18 points and 15 rebounds, but the Sixers remained winless since Jan. 29.

It didn't help that they were missing Tony Wroten, one of their few bright spots in this lost season. He sprained his right ankle in Friday's one-point loss at home to the New York Knicks and did not travel with the team.

"There's a win in this group," Brown said. "We will continue to fight and continue to stay together. I'm just thrilled, I'm proud of their ability, their character, to stay together in what's clearly difficult times."

Pelicans 105, Heat 95

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 30 points, 11 rebounds and three steals as New Orleans handed struggling Miami its seventh loss in 11 games.

LeBron James twisted his right ankle while stepping on Pelicans guard Tyreke Evans' foot during a drive to the hoop late in the third quarter, but remained in the game and finished with 25 points, nine assists and eight rebounds. It was not enough for Miami, which gave guard Dwyane Wade and center Greg Oden the night off following Friday's victory at Memphis.

Pelicans guard Eric Gordon also sat out with a sore left knee, but New Orleans got 14 points from Evans, 12 from Al-Farouq Aminu and 11 from Luke Babbitt.

Grizzlies 82, Pacers 71

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley scored 21 points, and Zach Randolph added 18 points and 13 rebounds as Memphis held Indiana to its lowest point total of the season.

Mike Miller added 13 points as Memphis won for the seventh time in nine games and maintained its hold on the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Marc Gasol, returning after spraining his ankle Friday night, had 10 points and nine rebounds.

Lance Stephenson led the Pacers with 15 points and eight rebounds, while David West added 10 points, but was 5 of 15 from the field.

Paul George, the Pacers' leading scorer at 22.1 points per game, was held to eight points, missing eight of his 10 shots, and Indiana shot 37 percent for the game.

Rockets 118, Cavaliers 111

In Cleveland, James Harden scored 37 points, including 17 in the third quarter as Houston led from wire-to-wire in a victory over Cleveland.

Harden was 9 of 15 from the



Philadelphia 76ers guard Hollis Thompson, left, steals the ball from Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah (13) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago on Saturday, March 22, 2014.

field, hit five 3-pointers, made all 14 of his free throws and had 11 assists without playing the fourth quarter after Houston built a 29-point lead late in the third.

Rockets center Dwight Howard missed his third straight game with a sore left ankle, but Houston is undefeated in the eight-time All-Star's absence.

Cleveland has lost four straight and played again without point guard Kyrie Irving, who has been sidelined for three games with a strained left biceps.

Dion Waiters led Cleveland with 26 points. Tyler Zeller added a career-high 23 points for the Cavaliers, who also played without forward Luol Deng (sprained left ankle).

Bobcats 124, Trail Blazers 94

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Al

Jefferson scored 28 points and two others finished with more than 20 as Charlotte routed Portland.

Kemba Walker added 26 points, Gerald Henderson had 23 and Chris Douglas-Roberts 11 for the Bobcats, who finished with their highest-scoring game and most-lopsided victory in snapping a two-game losing streak.

Damian Lillard scored 20 points, Dorell Wright added 17 and Wesley Matthews 15 for the Trail Blazers, who trailed by as many as 34 points late in the second half in their worst loss this season.

Charlotte shot 52 percent from the field (49 of 94), outscored Portland in the paint 54-32 and held a 50-36 rebounding advantage over the Trail Blazers, who had won their last four

games against the Bobcats.

Clippers 112, Pistons 103

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 28 points and 15 assists, and Blake Griffin added 25 points as Los Angeles beat Detroit to extend the Pistons' losing streak to five games.

The Clippers, coming off a 110-100 loss at Denver that ended their 11-game overall winning streak, shot 54 percent from the field and improved to 24-1 when finishing at 50 percent or better.

DeAndre Jordan had 12 rebounds for the Pacific Division leaders, who have had at least one player with double-digit rebounds in a franchise-record 46 consecutive games. The previous mark was 44, by the 1977 Buffalo Braves.

Jonas Jerebko had 22 points

and nine rebounds off the bench for the Pistons.

Spurs 99, Warriors 90

In Oakland, California, Tony Parker had 20 points and five assists, and Danny Green scored 18 points as short-handed San Antonio outlasted Golden State for its 13th straight victory.

Tiago Splitter added 17 points and 14 rebounds as the NBA-leading Spurs (53-16) pulled away with an 11-0 run early in the fourth quarter. San Antonio, riding its longest winning streak in six years, is two games ahead of Oklahoma City for the top playoff seed in the Western Conference.

The Spurs did it even while resting stars Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili. They are 3-0 against Golden State this season, including two wins in Oakland without their regulars, after eliminating the Warriors in the second round of the playoffs last year.

Stephen Curry scored 20 points to go with six assists and six rebounds, and Andrew Bogut grabbed 17 boards as the Warriors head into a five-day break on a sour note.

Jazz 89, Magic 88

In Salt Lake City, Trey Burke scored 17 points, including a high-arching 3-pointer with 1.6 seconds remaining, to push Utah past Orlando.

With the Jazz trailing 88-86, Gordon Hayward dribbled through the center of the Magic defense and found Burke in the corner. The big shot snapped Utah's six-game losing streak and extended Orlando's skid to eight games.

Down the stretch, the game turned into a battle between Burke and Victor Oladipo, two rookies drafted in the top 10 of last summer's draft.

Oladipo, the second selection, scored 19 points for the Magic. He made a jumper and then added two free throws with 21 seconds to play to give Orlando an 85-82 lead.

Jets' Geno Smith eager to work with 'my guy' Vick



CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—New York Jets quarterback Geno Smith is eager to work with Michael Vick, even if it means a hotly contested competition for the starting job.

"Awesome, man. Vick's my guy," Smith said during a fan signing event Saturday in West Virginia. "We needed to find a guy that was legitimately a guy that could come in and play. I think that's what we did."

"Mission accomplished."

Vick signed a one-year deal with the Jets on Friday, the same day New York released former starter Mark Sanchez. The Jets hope Vick, who spent the last five seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles, will be able to push

Smith during training camp.

Vick is "going to be a guy I can work with, have a really good working relationship with and also compete with," Smith said at the Charleston Civic Center.

Smith was unfazed by Vick's comments Friday night on a conference call with New York-area reporters that he wouldn't necessarily be content standing on the sideline all season.

"That's every quarterback," Smith said. "I understand where Mike's coming from. No one wants to sit the bench. I don't know a player that does."

Smith threw for 12 touchdowns and 21 interceptions in his rookie season while starting all 16 games after Sanchez injured his right shoulder in the

preseason. He drew praise from coach Rex Ryan for a strong finish in which the Jets won three of their last four to finish 8-8, but Smith expects to have "an open competition" with Vick for the starting job—just like it will be for every position on the team.

"It's just good to have a guy to compete with like Mike," Smith said. "We're going to compete. We're not going to say, 'Hey, you're the starter.' And we'll leave it at that. We want to get better."

"I love it. It's really making everyone work harder and keep you right on your toes because you don't have a moment to be satisfied or just say 'I've arrived.' You've got to continue to work at it."

Smith respects the opinion of

Vick, who first reached out to him during Smith's senior season at West Virginia in 2012. Smith, a second-round pick, recalled that the NFL draft process and how to handle expectations were among the topics they discussed.

"Some of the things I asked him was, 'How did you deal with being THE guy?'" Smith said. "I was in that situation last year. As soon as I walked into the locker room, I was expected to produce. And as we all know in the league, it's hard to do that. If you're not on a team that's already set up to win, you're going to have your struggles."

"It was more about me just having an understanding of the position that I'm in and just continuing to grow."

Dayton stuns Syracuse 55-53 to reach Sweet 16



BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Dayton coach Archie Miller almost didn't want to look.

Syracuse star freshman point guard Tyler Ennis was open at the top of the key with 2 seconds left and the Flyers holding a two-point lead. When Ennis' attempt to win the game clanged harmlessly off the rim, Dayton had a victory it had been chasing for three decades.

"We have a good program with great tradition," Miller said Saturday night after Dayton defeated Syracuse 55-53 in the NCAA tournament to reach the Sweet 16 for the first time in 30 years. "Now, we have the ability to build, and that's what it's all about."

Ennis had beaten Pittsburgh last month with a 40-foot shot at the buzzer, so he had the confidence to try again, even though Syracuse had missed all nine attempts from behind the arc against the pesky Flyers.

"The last shot was a great shot. It was the right play," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "A chance to win the game. You don't have enough time to get to the basket. I have no problem with that shot."

Neither did the 35-year-old Miller, though he probably aged just a little bit while the ball was in the air.

"That thing was on line and he went for the win," Miller said. "The thing that went through my head was the game at Pitt, when I saw that highlight 7,000 times when he banged the 3. I thought he was going to go to the basket. When I saw him raise up, I didn't feel good about it. But Buffalo's been good to us these last couple of days on the buzzer shots."

It sure has. Vee Sanford's basket with 3.8 seconds left was the margin of victory in Dayton's one-point win over in-state rival Ohio State on Thursday. After that game, the Dayton Daily News mocked Buckeyes fans who refer to "The Ohio State University" with a headline that read: "THE University of Dayton."

Dayton (25-10), the 11th seed in the South, now advances to the regional semifinals next week against No. 2 seed Kansas or 10th-seeded Stanford.

Syracuse was in position to pull this one out, but Ennis also missed a foul-line jumper with 8 seconds left. He was down in the subdued locker room, with red faces all around, but confident he had made the right decision as he had so many times in a standout season.

The third-seeded Orange (28-6), who finished second in their first year in the Atlantic Coast Conference, struggled all game against the swarming Dayton defense. They missed all 10 attempts from beyond the arc, while the Flyers hit seven times from long range.

It was the first time in 665



Dayton's Matt Kavanaugh (35), Vee Sanford (43) and Jordan Sibert (24) celebrate during the second half of a third-round game against Syracuse in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., Saturday, March 22, 2014.

games that Syracuse failed to make a 3.

"It's hard to digest any loss," said Ennis, who finished with 19 points on 7-of-21 shooting. "They did a good job defensively, and the looks we did get we didn't capitalize."

Dyshawn Pierre scored 14 points and Jordan Sibert, held scoreless in the first half, hit a key 3-pointer with 47.7 seconds for Dayton.

Sibert finished with 10 points and Sanford had eight, but Sibert nearly gave it away when he stepped out of bounds while the Orange pressured him in the corner with 14 seconds left.

After Ennis settled for a jump-er from the foul line that missed, instead of driving the lane as he had all night, Syracuse fouled Pierre and he made one free throw, giving the Orange one more golden opportunity.

C.J. Fair had 14 points on 4-of-14 shooting and 10 rebounds in his final game for the Orange. Jerami Grant had just four points and attempted only three shots before fouling out late.

Trevor Cooney, who broke out of a long slump with four 3-pointers in the second round

against Western Michigan, had two points and missed all four shots he took from behind the arc.

Dayton, which improved to 11-0 when holding opponents under 60 points, led by as many as seven in the first half and extended its two-point halftime lead to six on the transition strikes the Flyers thrive on.

Florida 61, Pitt 45

Scottie Wilbekin scored 21 points and top-seeded Florida beat Pittsburgh 61-45 in the NCAA tournament, advancing to the Sweet 16 for the fourth consecutive year.

Patric Young added seven points and eight rebounds for the Gators, who extended their school record for consecutive wins to 28 with the victory in the South Regional.

Coming off a lackluster performance in its NCAA opener, Florida (34-2) played with considerably more energy and intensity against the Panthers (26-10).

Wilbekin and Young spearheaded the effort. The Gators were 5 of 20 from behind the arc, with at least five of those rimming in and out.

Florida advanced to the round of 16, where it will play either fourth-seeded UCLA or 12th-seeded Stephen F. Austin on Thursday in Memphis, Tenn. The Bruins and Lumberjacks play Sunday in San Diego.

Talib Zanna led the Panthers with 10 points, their only player in double figures.

Louisville 66, Saint Louis 51

Luke Hancock scored 21 points and defending national champion Louisville shrugged off a cold shooting performance to advance to the Sweet 16 for the third straight year.

The fourth-seeded Cardinals (31-5) shot under 45 percent, had 19 turnovers and only got 11 points from star Russ Smith. It didn't matter with the fifth-seeded Billikens (27-7) going 0 for 15 from 3-point range and struggling to take care of the ball.

Louisville moves on against either No. 1 seed Wichita State or No. 8 seed Kentucky. The unbeaten Shockers and Wildcats meet Sunday in St. Louis.

Saint Louis, which has never been to the Sweet 16, lost in the third round of the tournament

for the third consecutive year. Dwayne Evans led the Billikens with 16 points and Atlantic 10 player of the year Jordair Jett finished with 15.

Michigan 79, Texas 65

Nik Stauskas had 17 points and eight assists to lead Michigan to the Sweet 16 for the second straight year.

Jordan Morgan added 15 points and 10 rebounds as Michigan (27-8) advanced to the regional semifinals in Indianapolis. The Wolverines will face the winner of Sunday's Mercer-Tennessee game in Raleigh, N.C.

Michigan lost to Louisville in the national championship game a year ago.

Isiah Taylor scored 22 points for Texas on 8-for-22 shooting. The Longhorns (24-11) out-rebounded the Wolverines 41-30, but got off to a slow start and never recovered.

San Diego state 63, N. Dakota State 44

Xavier Thames scored 30 points, and fourth-seeded San Diego State reached the round of 16 for the second time in school history.

The Aztecs (31-4) now get

to make the short drive up the interstate to Anaheim, Calif., where they will face either No. 1 seed Arizona or eighth-seeded Gonzaga in the West Regional semifinals.

Thames, who was 9 of 19 from the field, had five assists and ended the comeback hopes of the Bison with a six-point spurt late in the second half.

Dwayne Polee II was the only other San Diego State player in double figures with 15 points.

Kory Brown led the 12th-seeded Bison (26-7) with 13 points, but the best shooting team in the country shot only 31.9 percent.

Wisconsin 85, Oregon 77

Ben Brust hit a 3-pointer with 1:07 left and second-seeded Wisconsin overcame seventh-seeded Oregon.

Brust's clutch 3 from the corner gave the Badgers (28-7) the lead for good in a heavy-weight fight of an NCAA tournament game.

Traevon Jackson followed with three free throws, but missed one with 21 seconds left to give the Ducks (24-10) one more chance to tie trailing by three.

Oregon gave it to Joseph Young, who had made big shots all night and scored 29 points. But he missed a rushed 3 from the wing, and the Badgers sealed it at the foul line.

Michigan state 80, Harvard 73

Branden Dawson scored a career-high 26 points to help fourth-seeded Michigan State fend off a wild Harvard rally.

The 12th-seeded Crimson (27-5) trailed by 16 early in the second half but took a 62-60 lead when Laurent Rivard hit a 3-pointer with 7:12 remaining. Travis Trice answered with a 3 of his own on the next possession and the Spartans (28-8) never trailed again.

Michigan State made its 12th Sweet 16 in the last 17 years. Gary Harris had 18 points and five assists for the Spartans, who will play Virginia or Memphis next Friday at Madison Square Garden.

Wesley Saunders led Harvard with 22 points. The Crimson won the second tournament game in school history two nights ago.

Dodgers beat Diamondbacks 7-5, win both Down Under



SYDNEY (AP) — Yasiel Puig had three

hits and two RBIs to back a scoreless outing by Hyun-Jin Ryu as the Los Angeles Dodgers made it 2 for 2 Down Under with a 7-5 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday.

Dee Gordon and Juan Uribe also had three hits for the Dodgers, who finished with 13 in beating Arizona starter

Trevor Cahill for the first time.

After a 3-1 win behind ace Clayton Kershaw in the Major League Baseball season opener Saturday night, Los Angeles remained perfect at Sydney Cricket Ground with its second consecutive victory over its NL West rival in Australia.

Cahill (0-1) came in 6-0 with a 2.01 ERA in 10 career starts against the Dodgers, but left in the fifth trailing 3-0. He gave up eight hits with just one strikeout and was charged

with five runs and four walks in four-plus innings.

The Diamondbacks made three errors, two by catcher Miguel Montero.

After trailing 7-0, Arizona scored once in the eighth and four times in the ninth, including Mark Trumbo's two-run homer off closer Kenley Jansen with two outs.

Jansen struck out Gerardo Parra to end a game that featured 14 pitchers and lasted a minute more than 4 hours.

"The first one I really enjoyed actually, this one not quite as much," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said of Arizona's late-inning rally.

"It was good to get it, and at the end of the day it's a win. But it's a kind of frustrating one. We walked seven guys the last four innings and we really gave them the chance to get back in the game."

Beginning his second season in the majors, Ryu (1-0) held the Diamondbacks to two

hits in five shutout innings. He struck out five and walked one. The left-hander had a strong rookie season last year, going 14-8 with a 3.00 ERA in 30 starts after seven seasons in South Korea.

"Overall, I'm really satisfied," Ryu said through an interpreter. "My fastball was in good command and fortunately my teammates were able to support me early in the game and give me a lot of confidence."

Scott comes back to the field at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Adam Scott didn't have to look as far down the leaderboard to find players who suddenly are a real threat to win at Bay Hill.

He described them as players who are "hungry to win," and Scott served them up an appetizer Saturday in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Staked to a seven-shot lead at the start of the third round, the Masters champion hit enough loose shots and missed just enough par putts to lose more than half his lead and turn his quest to be No. 1 in the world into a bigger battle that he would have preferred.

Scott made a 7-foot par putt on the final hole for a 1-under 71, giving him a three-shot lead over Keegan Bradley going into Sunday.

"I think I've got to go out and try to win the golf tournament (Sunday)," Scott said. "I'm not trying to win the No. 1 ranking. I've got a bunch of guys breathing down my neck who all have had nice rounds today and are feeling pretty good about the way they're

playing going into tomorrow. So I'm going to have to play a pretty sharp round of golf and not open the door at all."

Scott was at 15-under 201.

Bradley birdied his last three holes, taking on the flag at the 18th with a 9-iron from 167 yards that narrowly cleared the rocks framing the lake and settled 4 feet from the flag. That was the final touch on an eight-birdie round of 66 that put him in the final group.

"I just kind of like that underdog role," Bradley said. "I like knowing that I've got to go out there and play well. It really gets me excited. And playing in the final group with one of the best players in the world at Arnold Palmer's tournament is what we all dream to do. Tomorrow is going to be a really fun day."

Any other year at Bay Hill, he might have been referring to Tiger Woods.

Woods, the two-time defending champion at Bay Hill and No. 1 in the world, withdrew before the tournament because



Adam Scott, of Australia, prepares to hit his second shot on the third hole during the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill Saturday, March 22, 2014, in Orlando, Fla.

win on the PGA Tour for the first time. Chesson Hadley and Francesco Molinari of Italy each had a 69 and were another shot behind. Hadley, who won the Puerto Rico Open two weeks ago, can qualify for the Masters with a high finish. He likely would need to be in sixth place or better to be solidly inside the top 50 in the world.

Scott was never satisfied with the seven-shot lead, and he still felt comfortable with a three-shot advantage going to Sunday.

"When you've got the lead, you have to work for it," he said. "I'm still in good shape."

Five holes into the third round, his seven-shot lead already had been trimmed to one. Scott three-putted from 60 feet on the opening hole, an indication of how fast the greens have become at Bay Hill, and he hit a poor chip to 12 feet on the fifth hole to drop another shot. Hadley applied the early pressure with four birdies through the sixth hole to get within one shot.

Scott wasn't aware of this. He doesn't sound as though he would have been surprised, anyway.

"When you don't start birdie today, then you know the other guys have got nothing to lose and they're going for it," he said. "They've got to close the gap. It doesn't surprise me at all. You think seven is a lot, but it's not really, especially over 36 holes. If I was seven back at any other tournament, I would think I could still win."

Scott laid up on the par-5 sixth and hit wedge to 2 feet. And after a few long birdie putts on the 10th and 15th holes restored the cushion, he two-putted from 60 feet for birdie on the par-5 16th to bring his lead back to five shots.

Bradley birdied the 18th. Scott missed a 5-foot par putt on the 17th, and then the 33-year-old Australian nearly had one more wobble. His birdie putt on the 18th slid about 7 feet by the hole. Scott made that coming back for par, which he hopes will be a small measure of momentum he can carry into the final round.

"I missed two par putts shorter than that," he said. "To miss another would have opened the door a little bit too much for my liking."

BRAVES

From Page 28

to end the game early, leading at 8-0 after four innings. The Falcons were shut out in the first four innings as they made it to scoring position only twice in that stretch. Leadoff batter Joel Norita reached third in the first inning with two outs, but was stranded along with another runner at second based, as fifth batter Justin Cangco was booted out on a 4-3 putout play. Max Pangelinan also advanced to third with only one out, but failed to get home, as the Falcons' next two batters were beaten to first.

The Falcons finally lit up the

board at the top of the fifth inning with Keoki Blas drilling an RBI double. He also reached home off the Braves' error at shorts stop. However, Blas RBI and run could not stop the Braves from recording the biggest win last weekend, as the Tanapag-based squad countered with four runs to end the match one inning early.

Tudela secured the victory via 10-run mercy rule with his three-run double. The other run at the bottom of the fifth inning came from a Falcons' miscue at shortstop.

McDonald's 13, Twins 3

McDonald's also bagged an early victory via 10-run mercy rule against the winless GSM

Twins in the second game last Saturday.

McDonald's now has won its last six games after going 0-3, while the Twins absorbed their seventh loss in as many matches.

The streaking McDonald's set up the win in only five innings after pulling away in the third. McDonald's scored eight runs at the top of the third, turning a deadlock to an 11-3 advantage. Tommy Santos led the pivotal third with his three-run single, while L.J. Reyes contributed a two-run single. The three other were logged off the Twins' booboos.

McDonald's never looked back from thereon, as relief pitcher Jared Reyes shut down

the Twins in the last three innings, allowing only one hit and striking out seven batters.

Little Legals 8, Comets II 4

In the final game last Saturday, the Little Legals finished strong to down Comets II.

The Little Legals notched four runs at the top of the sixth and last inning to improve to an even 4-4 record.

Rayson Lisua broke the 4-4 tie, as he doubled and drove home second batter Domionne Babauta with only one out. Lisua also reached home off Sean Rabauliman's single, while the latter also scored courtesy of Pedro Maratita's base hit. Maratita then recorded

the last run, as he made it home off a Comets II's error at third base and the Little Legals closer capped the win in style, striking out their foe's first three batters at the bottom of the sixth.

Meanwhile, in a make-up game last week, Comets I dominated the Hustlers, 12-2.

Ahead by only two, 4-2, Comets I racked up eight runs in the fifth inning to take the early decision. Clarence Cabrera had a two-run triple at the top of the fifth and also scored off a Hustlers' miscue at first base, while Francisco Frederick and J.P. Castro each blasted an RBI single. The three other runs were tallied off the Hustlers' two wild pitches and an error at right field.

BELING

From Page 28

who joined forces with Lydia Tan and Melody Johnson, respectively, in last year's tournament, dropped the opening set of yesterday's finals, 4-6. A 6-3 win in the second set kept Minor and Lee in the game and

they went on to complete the come-from-behind victory with a 6-2 triumph in the deciding third set.

In the other women's doubles finale—the 3.0 division—junior players Malika Miyawaki and Tania Tan prevailed over Marivic Rosario and Tisha Ferrer, 6-3, 6-4.

In the men's 3.0 doubles, J.R. Jacinto and Robbie Schorr defeated the father-and-son tandem of Randy and Richard Steele, 6-0, 6-1, and PIC's Dennis Tababa and Glenn Policare, 6-0, (walkover) to rule the round-robin contest.

In the men's 4.0 doubles finals, the pair of Daniel Park and

Jake Lee was playing Reo Arriola and Ken Imaya at press time and results of the match were unavailable. Lee and Park made it to yesterday's title game after a 6-2, 2-6, 6-0 win over Edgar Sergio and Toshi Beltau in the upper bracket semis, while Arriola and Imaya edged Luther Lizama and Colin Ramsey, 6-4,

6-4, in the other semis pairing.

Besides the doubles games, junior singles matches were also played in Week 1 of the tournament sponsored by PIC-Saipan, Pacific Trading, Co. (Gatorade and Monster), and IP&E. Results of the junior singles matches will be reported later this week.

GWAP

From Page 28

two, and the bottom four will be eliminated. San Antonio (4-2), and IT&E (5-2) join the five-team fight for the outright semis seats, while Armatech (1-5) and the Chinatown Saints (0-6) are likely to take an early vacation. Saipan Ice (3-5), Natural Mystic (2-6), and Pelicans (2-4) are hanging in there.

Docomo ended its regular season campaign on a winning note after rallying past Saipan Ice. Behind by five at the end

of the third, 51-56, Tony Diaz, Cecilio Bisana, and James Villacrusis got their acts together in the fourth quarter, combining for 21 of Docomo's 25 points to lift their team to the 3-point win.

The trio also canned crucial free throws that sealed the win for Docomo. Bisana and Diaz had two charities apiece, while Villacrusis made a split, as Docomo got its last five points from the 15-foot line.

Bisana paced Docomo with his 20 points, while Villacrusis and Diaz chipped in 18 and 13, respectively. Juan Camacho was the fourth Docomo player

to break into twin digits with his 11 and also added four points in the fourth canto.

In the second game, Gwap Gang relied on steady offense to cruise past the depleted Natural Mystics, which played with only six players.

Gwap Gang fired at least 21 points in all four quarters, breaking Natural Mystic's back in the third quarter with a 24-14 scoring. Gwap was ahead by eight at halftime, 45-37, when it kept going in the third for a double-digit spread, 69-51. Jasper Yap led the breakaway, firing 11 of his 14 markers in the third quar-

ter. He scored in succession, nailing 11 of Gwap Gang's last 13 points in that canto.

Rodney Sacramento picked up where Yap left off in the fourth to maintain the safe margin, as the former logged 10 of his 23 points in the final canto. Sacramento drilled four straight baskets past the halfway mark of the fourth before a booming block and a steal from Dan Barcinas halted his momentum.

First Game

Docomo Pacific 76 – Bisana 20, Villacrusis 18, Diaz 13, J. Camacho 11, D. Camacho 3,

Hayes 2, Sison 2.

Saipan Ice 73 – Rangamar 20, Sablan 15, Cayading 8, N. Saralu 8, Norita 7, T. Kaipat 2, R. Saralu 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-21, 38-40, 51-56, 76-73.

Second Game

Gwap Gang 95 – Sacramento 23, Fitial 21, Yap 14, Vertudez 13, Ito 8, Ano 5, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Natural Mystic 75 – Barcinas 18, Ulloa 18, Pangelinan 14, Standish 14, Reyes 8.

Scoring by quarters: 24-23, 45-37, 69-51, 95-75.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	30	.559	—
Brooklyn	36	31	.537	1½
New York	29	40	.420	9½
Boston	23	47	.329	16
Philadelphia	15	55	.214	24
Southeast Division				
x-Miami	47	21	.691	—
Washington	36	33	.522	11½
Charlotte	34	36	.486	14
Atlanta	31	36	.463	15½
Orlando	19	51	.271	29
Central Division				
x-Indiana	51	19	.729	—
Chicago	39	31	.557	12
Cleveland	26	44	.371	25
Detroit	25	44	.362	25½
Milwaukee	13	56	.188	37½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	53	16	.768	—
Houston	47	22	.681	6
Dallas	42	28	.600	11½
Memphis	41	28	.594	12
New Orleans	29	40	.420	24
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	51	18	.739	—
Portland	45	25	.643	6½
Minnesota	34	33	.507	16
Denver	31	38	.449	20
Utah	23	47	.329	28½
x-clinched playoff spot				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

The Week in Sports

CNMI bets deliver in off-island tourney

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's representatives to last week's 2014 Marianas Open Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Tournament held at the Father Duenas Memorial School's Phoenix Center in Guam made the Commonwealth proud.

Trench Tech's Shane "Pika-boo" Alvarez brought home a gold medal after prevailing in the white belt category (150 to 169 lbs), while Gracie Barra Marianas' Lorenzo Attao duplicated that feat. Lorenzo and Jesus each bagged a gold medal in the white belt, youth division.

Frank "The Crank" Camacho also saw action in the BJJ tournament and was the biggest winner of the event, bringing home \$1,000 for ruling the centerpiece brown belt absolute (all weight classes) division.

Back on Saipan tournaments, Little League regular season



Gracie Barra Marianas coach Peter Mendiola shows some techniques to his fighter before competing in last week's 2014 Marianas Open Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Tournament at the Father Duenas Memorial School's Phoenix Center in Guam



MARIANAS OPEN PHOTOS

Gracie Barra Marianas' Lorenzo Attao, bottom, keeps his composure during a title bout in last week's 2014 Marianas Open Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Tournament at the Father Duenas Memorial School's Phoenix Center in Guam



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tan Holdings FC goalie tries to keep her balance after a save during their game against Paire FC in the NMIFA youth league last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Little Legals runner makes its safely to second base during a make-up game against the Ol'Aces in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

games continued last week with teams in the top half of the standings in the Major division keeping their lofty spots.

In the Junior League, the Enforcers and the Falcons notched close wins, while the Jets and the Fielders prevailed in the Senior League, and the Padres won in the Big League.

Still in baseball, the Tigers handed the defending champions Tan Holdings Brewers their first loss in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League.

In badminton, the finals cast in the men's and women's doubles and singles events in the Sun Palace Singles and Doubles Tournament 2014 were completed last week after playoff matches took place at the TSL Sports Complex.

In football, Tan Holdings

and MP United gained wins in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA youth league, while MP United also triumphed in the boys U15 and U18 divisions.

In volleyball, Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo completed his five-day FIVB volleyball cooperation program referee course on Saipan last week. Wilton Laniyo, Grabriel White, J.R. Gechig, Quintin Ramsey, Nakashima Nakashima, Christina Kim, Brianna Fajardo, Kadi Camacho, Terson Lisua, Rena Reftang, Joe Tajeron, Bonnie Bayless, Andrew Johnson, Jeane Bracken, Zena Demapan, Knohlynn Gechig, Shanna Flores, Tony Yamada, Dominic Hideo, and Billy Hinson were awarded certificates for finishing the course.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo talks to participants of the five-day FIVB volleyball cooperation program referee course before handing out their certificates of completion last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Red Sox outfielder throws to second base during a game against the Braves in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tigers pitcher Peter Lieto is greeted by his teammates after holding his own against the Tan Holdings Brewers in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League.



76ers' skid hits 24 games with 91-81 loss to Bulls

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Dayton stuns Syracuse 55-53 to reach Sweet 16

PAGE 25



28 MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Braves stun Falcons to gain share of lead

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There's no more undefeated team in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League, as the Tanapag Braves pulled off a 12-2 upset over the Falcons last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons had its seven-game winning run snapped and was forced to share the lead in the 15-team field with the Braves. The Braves and the Falcons hold similar 7-1 records, as the former earlier topped Laolao Bay, 11-6, in a make-up game last Thursday.

Robin Sablan pitched the Braves to the big win, as he allowed only two hits and gave

up only one earned run in five innings. The Braves pitcher also had five strikeouts and scored three runs and two RBIs on a 3-for-4 performance at bat. Sablan's partner—catcher Joe Tudela—also did well at the plate, going 4-for-4 and collecting four RBIs and one run.

With Sablan and Tudela on target and the Braves' defense holding strong, they threatened

See BRAVES on Page 26



Gwap Gang, Docomo boost semis bids



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gwap Gang's Rodney Sacramento escapes two Natural Mystic players and pulls up for a shot against Dan Barcinas, left, during the fourth quarter of their game in the MDX caging last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gwap Gang and Docomo Pacific remained in contention for the outright semis berths in the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League after beating separate foes last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Gwap Gang walloped Natural Mystic in the second game,

95-75, while Docomo slipped past Saipan Ice & Water in the curtain-raiser, 76-73. With the contrasting wins, Docomo and Gwap Gang finished the round-robin regular season with identical 6-3 records for a three-way tie for third place with TBK Mechanics.

Only the Top 2 teams will gain the automatic semis tickets, while the next four will battle the last

See GWAP on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tanapag Braves pitcher pitches to the Red Sox in an earlier game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The Braves played last Saturday and stunned the Falcons, 12-2.

Beling, Race triumph in PIC tourney

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Coaches Jeff Race and Luke Beling faced Amami Sakano and Tommy Choi in a finals rematch and asserted their mastery over the two junior players.

Race and Beling, who defeated Choi and Sakano in the men's open doubles title game in last year's Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, went 2-0 against the same pair after a 6-3, 6-4 win in the same category in the 14th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships yesterday at the PIC hard court.

Despite the loss, their second outing against their mentors was a big improvement for Choi and Sakano. In their first finals faceoff, the two junior players failed to score against Race and Beling in the opening set. Then in the second set of their Tan Holdings finals showdown, Cho and Sakano got only two

points against the two coaches. In the second set of yesterday's finals tiff, the young guns even launched a rally, forcing a standoff, 4-all, before Race and Beling won the last two games to foil their foe's upset bid.

Race and Beling advanced to the finals after downing another junior pair—Moris Villanueva and Seiya Eda—in last

Saturday's semifinals match, 6-0, 6-2. Sakano and Choi also needed only two sets to march into the finals, as they outclassed Lee Dong Min and Donn Dunlop last Saturday, 6-2, 6-2.

Meanwhile, three other pairs were crowned doubles champions at the conclusion of Week 1 of PIC tournament.

In the women's doubles open, Thea Minor and Carol Lee teamed up for the first time to dethrone Negahr Rastguiy and Mikayla Lopez. Lee and Minor,

See BELING on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jeff Race runs for a shot during his and Luke Beling's men's doubles title game against Tommy Choi and Amami Sakano yesterday in the PIC tournament at the Pacific Islands Club hardcourt.

